



An innocent gets a flavour of hard-core politics

It was sex, sex, and more sex at the Commons yesterday. The Chamber, of course, was not where the real action was. One or two MPs did look in — but, frankly, given the choice between a free private showing of the hard-core porn video *Red Hot Dutch* (X) in committee room 19, and a live performance on the floor of the House by Mr Tony Newton (PC) many MPs took the view that their responsibilities to their constituents demanded that, however painful the duty, they sit through the whole disgusting video, then stagger ash-faced ... (etc).

Your sketchwriter chose the mainstream cinema downstairs. *Red Hot Dutch*, at the Commons ABC.

Charming though Mr Newton is, you would not at first expect to find him on screen in a Soho club. Were he involved at all he would be washing the glasses. Leader of the House and MP for Baintree, when Newton's name is mentioned the sex which comes to mind is the second syllable of his county. So, under-studying for the absent PM, Newton found the cinema less than packed for his own show — unfair, for Mr Newton is not without satellite appeal. The signal is a little scrambled and you need a decoder, but there is a niche in the porn market for his performance, and yesterday afternoon your sketchwriter identified it ...

There is (I once discovered when wandering by mistake into a pornographic bookshop, and lingering there by mistake) an erotic specialisation known as "bondage" whose followers like to chain each other up, or down, or reduce each other to total helplessness. Faced by a squad of MPs intent on tripping him up and tying him down, Newton adopts a wonderfully woebegone look and plaintive tone. Bondage freaks would be screaming in the aisles. There's a bright

future for him in videos of this type.

John Smith, meanwhile, has recently been modelling himself on Miss Whiplash, to rather bizarre effect, and inviting cabinet ministers to come up for castigation and torture. Yesterday, he canted Newton with coal statistics and adenoal consonants. Picture Smith in leather and fishnet: here too is a potential star — though not for the faint-hearted. Newton's determination to put up a fight and yap hysterically back at the fearsome Scottish bully only added spice.

The excitement intense and audience at fever pitch, Madam (Speaker) waded in with a little discipline, then, wickily, called Budge.

Nick Budgen (C, Wolverhampton SW) is a small, thin, bird-like man with a dry, vinegary voice and spectacles. If any scandal were to occur involving the discovery of naive young Euro-enthusiasts horribly mutilated and pickled in baths of Lyso, Budgen would be your suspect. Yesterday — without warning and quite unprovoked — he aimed a kick at Tony Newton, somewhere around his soft Ecu, hinting that if he dared toy with monetary union something nasty would happen. Newton squirmed.

In vain did Coventry's John Butcher (C, *Red Hot Dutch*), come to his aid with news of three new models of Jaguar; Newton was crushed. It was left to Peter Mandelson (Lab) with a twitch of his wolf-like moustache, to bark something about Virgin and ethics.

Your sketchwriter can only take so much of this sort of thing. With relief, I heard Scottish secretary Ian Lang begin a statement on some enquiry or other. Back to politics, at last ... "Informants," said Lang, carefully enunciating each syllable, "said to identify certain individuals in the legal profession as homophobic ..."

Prisoner claims he was tortured by SAS

A PRISONER told a court yesterday that he was "brutally and systematically tortured" by members of the SAS when they lifted a siege at a Scottish jail. John Devine, 32, was giving evidence at the Court of Session in Edinburgh on the first day of his £30,000 damages claim against the Secretary of State for Scotland. He and two other inmates held a prison officer hostage for five days in an attic at Peterhead prison in 1987. The siege came to an end at 5.30am on October 3 when CS gas was fired into the attic. "It was when the gas cleared I saw the men I took to be the members of the SAS. They

were carrying large staves," Devine said.

He said he was thrown about 12ft into a room below, beaten and thrown down two flights of stairs before being handed to prison officers who stripped and beat him.

In reply to questions from Alistair Dunlop QC, for the Secretary of State for Scotland, Devine said: "I understand they were entitled to use force, but not the force they used."

The court was shown an hour-long police video of the siege. The prison officer was seen being led onto the 90ft-high roof where a noose was put around his neck. The hearing continues today.

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Fear of dole queue dampens reaction to rate cut

BY KATE ALDERSON

DESPITE tumbling interest rates there was little sign yesterday that the nation is prepared to start spending again. Debt, after the excesses of the 1980s, has become a dirty word, its terror exaggerated further by the spectre of unemployment.

Few people on the streets of London seemed prepared to change their present frugal spending patterns on the strength of the Chancellor's latest cut.

Michael Clark, a former director of a civil engineering construction company, said: "We've had a series of

these cuts, but people still won't spend or borrow. They're in fear of their jobs, and as long as the fear of unemployment is lurking, nothing will change. I lost my job last October and am having to go to Portugal for work."

"This cut has come too late. The government has got to get off its pedestal and do something about the infrastructure of this country and repair the damage of the last ten years. All of our industry has hit the buffers at the same time and needs some protection."

For Shirley Reed, an investment manager, the cut has come three

months too late. "There's not a lot of confidence out there. No doubt this will help a little, but the rot is so deep and deep now, a lot more needs to be done. I can advise clients until I'm blue in the face that we are seeing the signs of an upturn, but they have lost the confidence which allows them to take risks. People really fear the bad times are going to go on and on."

"I'm afraid that I'm adding my voice to the British chorus which is demanding more interest rate cuts, along with investment in industry. Everyone is still suffering from a hangover from the eighties and it will take a lot more than a few

paracetamol to make it feel better." Taking risks is essential to Douglas Henry who works for a venture capital bank, but he fears the lack of confidence in businessmen and investors will continue to hamper economic progress. "While I have to keep an eye on the future and ensure we have long-term projects, the people I deal with are very shaky. I'm not securing as many deals as I used to and I'm more cautious now."

Some investors were angry about the interest rate cut. David Lowe, a pensioner from south London, said: "I know we've got to look at the whole picture, do something for the wealth

of Britain, but what about the pensioners with investments? We're seeing the interest on our savings cut at every turn. I want things to go right for Britain, but I'm a bit peeved that I keep losing out."

□ Bonham's, the London auction house, recorded one of its busiest days in years. It took £132,000 in a furniture sale, compared with £50,000 for the same day last year. Private buyers and dealers were buying at up to twice estimated prices. A Bonham's spokeswoman said: "I suppose it just proves there is money out there, but why it's being spent now, I'm not sure."

Lenders to offer cheapest mortgages for 25 years

■ The base rate cut will greatly increase the disposable income of some borrowers with mortgages subject to annual review

BY LINDSAY COOK, MONEY EDITOR

MORTGAGE rates have been cut to their lowest level since 1968. The Halifax Building Society set a base mortgage rate of 7.99 per cent — a reduction of 0.56 per cent — within minutes of the 1 per cent bank base rate cut to 6 per cent yesterday.

New borrowers get the benefit immediately and the existing 1.8 million homebuyers will have their payments cut from March 1. The saving on an average £60,000 endowment mortgage will be £24.50 a month and £19.10 on a repayment mortgage.

The base rate cut came just in time for the Halifax to be able to include the latest reduction in the new payments under its annual review scheme. These customers are still making payments based on a mortgage rate of 10.99 per cent. From April someone on Budget Plan with a £60,000 endowment mortgage will see their payments fall by over £100 a month.

Most other lenders change their annual review schemes in January and February so the latest cut is likely to be missed, although lenders are sympathetic to individual borrowers who ask for earlier reductions.

Abbey National, the second largest mortgage lender, has also cut its base mortgage rate for new borrowers to 7.99 per cent. Because its previous rate was 8.5 per cent the reduction is 0.51 per cent on loans up to £60,000. Above £60,000 the new rate is 7.85 per cent down from 8.3 per cent. Over £100,000 the rate is 7.7 per cent down from 8.1 per cent. Existing borrowers will have their payments reduced from March 1. The Abbey does not operate an annual review.

The Household Mortgage Corporation, the second largest centralised mortgage lender, will cut its base rate to 7.99 per cent from 8.5 per cent from March 1. "Everything is in place for a recovery in the housing market," a spokesman said, "we are cautiously optimistic."

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HOW MUCH MORE WILL YOU PAY?

Mortgage payments at their most expensive in March 1990 and after yesterday's reduction

Loan size (£)	15.4 (%)	8.55 (%)	7.99 (%)
Endowment			
20,000	192.50	106.89	89.89
30,000	288.75	160.33	149.83
40,000	417.09	231.58	216.41
50,000	545.42	302.83	283.00
60,000	673.75	374.08	349.58
70,000	802.09	445.33	416.16
80,000	930.42	516.58	482.75
90,000	1,058.75	587.83	549.33
100,000	1,187.09	659.08	615.91
110,000	1,315.42	730.33	682.50
120,000	1,443.75	801.58	749.08
130,000	1,572.09	872.83	815.66
140,000	1,700.42	944.08	882.25
150,000	1,828.75	1,015.33	948.83
Repayment			
20,000	205.89	135.54	130.29
30,000	308.84	203.31	195.44
40,000	431.79	272.55	262.02
50,000	554.74	341.79	328.60
60,000	677.69	411.03	395.18
70,000	800.64	480.27	461.76
80,000	923.59	549.51	528.34
90,000	1,046.54	618.75	594.92
100,000	1,169.49	687.99	661.50
110,000	1,292.44	757.23	728.08
120,000	1,415.39	826.47	794.66
130,000	1,538.34	895.71	861.24
140,000	1,661.29	964.95	927.82
150,000	1,784.24	1,034.19	994.40

Source: Halifax

130 schools are on inspection 'hit list'

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

MORE than 100 state schools have been told by the government's new inspection agency that they are on a "hit list" for early inspection because standards are considered unsatisfactory.

Almost 50 secondary schools, 60 primaries and 20 special schools have been notified by Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, that they are "at risk" and will be included in the first round of independent assessments starting in September. When a school has been identified as being "at risk" the education secretary will have the power under legislation currently before parliament to

remove schools from local authority control. A government appointed education association would take over.

The secondary schools on the list will be inspected in the next 18 months. An Ofsted spokesman said that a register of schools whose inspections were unsatisfactory had been kept for many years. Those causing concern had been notified so that they would be aware of the reasons for their inclusion in the new arrangements. The first 400 schools chosen for assessment before Christmas are to be named next week. Most have been selected at random.

□ Two moderate teaching unions began preparations yesterday for a boycott of English tests for 14-year-olds. The

National Association of Head Teachers and the Association of Teachers and Lecturers decided to seek legal advice on the action.

Teachers complain that this summer's tests are too narrow, poorly prepared and have been imposed without proper consultation. All six teacher unions are demanding that John Patten, the education secretary, make the tests for 600,000 pupils a national pilot.

Ministers believe that union leaders are exaggerating the scale of disquiet and the numbers willing to risk breaching their contracts. Local education authorities are being advised by the National Employers' Organisation for School Teachers to draw up policies to deal with industrial action.



Window dressing: posters announcing the rate cut are unveiled at the Halifax in Kensington High Street

Talk of confidence hides frayed nerves

Senior ministers yesterday appeared unsure about whether the economy is strong or weak. The Treasury statement explaining the cut in interest rates listed several indicators of continued sluggish activity. At the same time, Norman Lamont highlighted "a sharp rise in business confidence" supported in the CBI survey.

In reality, the concerted attempt to talk up the recovery masks considerable nervousness among ministers. They are worried about the state of the economy. Several privately believe John Major made a tactical mistake in sounding so upbeat at the New Year.

There were positive signs around Christmas, and these were reflected in the CBI survey. But any pick-up is patchy and tentative. As the Treasury statement indicated, the growth of broad money is below the monitoring range and house prices have continued to fall. Most important politically, redundancies continue at a high level and unemployment is virtually certain to exceed three million next month.

Hence the word from Downing Street is that the government must be seen to be reacting, in part to deal with the worries of small businessmen and other core Tory supporters. A strong political lead has been given from 10 Downing Street to present the Budget as one for jobs and economic recovery.

An early signal came yesterday with the cut in interest rates for once, catching the markets by surprise. This will be followed by the package of employment measures being discussed by a new ministerial committee. These will concentrate on getting the unemployed back into work via training schemes, further education and setting up their own businesses. A housing market initiative is also in the pipeline. Both should be ready by the time of the Budget on March 16, though the government may want to announce some employment measures earlier. Both packages are intended to improve the workings of the market rather than

decisions on tax increases until the December Budget. Most other ministers are content to leave until the autumn awkward choices over squeezing public spending further, which few believe will be achievable, and raising indirect taxes and the national insurance contributions of employees.

PETER RIDDELL

Minister hints at public smoking ban

The government will consider legislation to ban smoking in public places and at work if voluntary means fail, the health minister said last night. Brian Mawhinney's remarks in a Commons written reply followed Opposition calls for a ban on tobacco advertising.

The *Health of the Nation* white paper set targets of no-smoking policies in 80 per cent of public places by 1994 and for most employees by 1995. Dr Mawhinney said: "Good progress is being made by voluntary means but, if this does not continue, we will consider taking statutory powers."

Hugh Bayley, Labour MP for York, is to introduce a backbench bill today to make tobacco advertising illegal. The bill would establish in British law the aims of a draft EC directive which would ban all forms of tobacco advertising except for advertisements in tobacco sales outlets, where they were not visible from outside.

Cliff crash man survives

A man whose car went over a 60ft cliff and nose-dived into a car park below was comfortable in hospital last night with back and neck injuries. His Mercedes crashed through a concrete bollard on a cliff-top road near Margate, Kent, yesterday and plunged over the sheer drop. A police spokesman said: "The car was a complete write-off. It is a miracle he managed to get out of that alive. The car was left mangled." Police, who have not named the man, believe the car careered out of control before going over the side.

Tourism chief quits

The chairman of the British Tourist Authority said yesterday he had had enough of the government's failure to support tourism and would be standing down at the end of his three-year term in March. William Davis and Michael Medlicott, the authority's chief executive, both announced their resignation after a meeting with Peter Brooke, the heritage secretary. Mr Davis, 59, said: "If there is a government strategy for tourism I don't know what it is. The £32 million a year we've been allocated for the next three years is inadequate."

Scots offered shelter

The Scottish arm of Shelter has launched a project aimed at helping young homeless Scots in London to return to Scotland. It has enlisted the help of 11 Scottish district councils, which have agreed to provide accommodation, and homeless agencies in London. The charity estimates that up to 10,000 Scots are homeless in London every year. About two thirds come from Strathclyde. The brunt of the cost of the scheme will be met by local authorities, although some funding has come from the Scottish Office.

Zoo chief appointed

London zoo announced yesterday that Jo Gipps, the acting chief executive, would take over as director. He will spearhead the zoo's £18 million redevelopment plan, which was unveiled last October after threatened closure was averted. Dr Gipps said yesterday: "London zoo has been through some harrowing times in the recent past but we have achieved significant savings in staff and operating costs ... We have had to learn to live within our means while giving our visitors an exciting family day out."

Journalists win action

Daily Mirror journalists yesterday won a High Court action preventing the newspaper's management introducing an immediate five-night week for sub-editors. *Mirror* Group rotas until a full court hearing ruled whether they were legal. Mr John Henty QC, for seven sub-editors funded and backed by the National Union of Journalists, told the court that a unilateral decision had been made to introduce the new rotas, with staff being informed last Friday.

Telegraph price rise

From next Monday, the price of *The Daily Telegraph* will increase by 3p to 48p. The price on Saturday will remain at 60p.

Heir to Blenheim tells judge he cannot abscond because mugger stole his passport

Blandford questioned on assault after being cleared of contempt

By James Landale

THE Marquess of Blandford was cleared of being in contempt of court yesterday after being arrested by High Court officials for failing to surrender his passport.

He was arrested at 7.40am at his flat in Earls Court, west London, because it was feared he might leave the country to avoid paying maintenance to his estranged wife and baby son. But the court accepted that his passport was stolen when he was mugged four months ago, and he was freed after promising that he would not apply for a new one.

Lord Blandford left the High Court in a taxi, escorted by two police officers, and was arrested shortly afterwards. He was taken to Kensington police station where he was due to be questioned in connection with the alleged assault on a photographer.

Steve King, freelance photographer, claimed the marquess whipped him across the face with the buckle of a leather belt, leaving him with a cut above his left eye. A Scotland Yard spokesman said: "The photographer gave a statement after making a formal complaint of assault. Enquiries continue."

In the High Court, Paul

Coleridge, for Lady Blandford, told Mr Justice Hollings that he was not satisfied with Lord Blandford's explanation about his passport being stolen.

"Tape-recorded conversations we have heard of Lord Blandford said he was intending to leave the jurisdiction and would be abroad in Australia or America."

Mr Quintin Iwi, for Lord Blandford, said: "My instructions are that my client does not have any passport. I can't magic a passport out of no passport."

Mr Coleridge claimed that the marquess had said that if his wife continued proceedings "he would remove children and furniture from his house, and the car and the dog". But Lord Blandford, 37, said these had been "empty threats". Mr Coleridge asked if the threats were intended to frighten his wife into halting actions against him.

Lord Blandford said: "That is not correct. The only reason for making the threats was to try and make her realise she could come to an amicable arrangement without these vast expenses and lengthy proceedings."

A court order issued last

Friday banned Lord Blandford from leaving England and Wales until proper arrangements had been made to comply with maintenance orders for Lady Blandford and the couple's six-month-old son George, and until he gave the court an account of his means.

Lady Blandford, 30, also obtained injunctions on Friday restraining her husband from violence and from visiting her or their son at her home in Kiddington, north Oxfordshire. Solicitors said, in the High Court on Monday that the marquess had threatened his wife's life. A further injunction barred Lord Blandford from removing the child from his wife's home, although access to the child could be arranged through solicitors.

Lord Blandford, who is son of the 11th Duke of Marlborough and heir to the £100 million Blenheim Palace estate in Oxfordshire, appeared in the High Court unshaven with a cut down the side of his throat.

He refused to comment after the hearing and sat with his head bowed as he was driven off in the taxi. Lady Blandford also refused to comment.



Taxi ride: the Marquess of Blandford leaving the High Court in London yesterday after being cleared of contempt

Second new vaccine may stop cancer of cervix

By Nigel Hawkes
SCIENCE EDITOR

BRITISH scientists supported by the Cancer Research Campaign are poised to launch a second vaccine against cancer. The vaccine is designed to protect against cervical cancer, which kills more than 2,000 women a year in Britain.

On Monday, the Cancer Research Campaign announced trials of a vaccine which it is hoped may prevent Hodgkin's Disease, Burkitt's Lymphoma and nasopharyngeal cancer.

The second vaccine is being developed by Dr Saveria Campisi of the Beatson Institute in Glasgow and Professor Bill Jarrett of Glasgow University. They have already produced a version effective against a virus in cows that is closely related to the human papilloma virus, believed to be responsible for cervical cancer.

There is strong evidence that the incidence of the disease is linked to early teenage sex. The Glasgow scientists have suggested that an injection, for males as well as females, could eliminate the infection and reduce the incidence of the cancer.

The vaccine could be used as a treatment as well as a means of prevention. Dr Campisi said: "We have found in our work with cattle that before a cancer tumour becomes fully malignant the vaccine induces tumour rejection. Carried through to people, this could be used to treat women who have been screened for cervical cancer and found to have lesions that if left untreated might lead to cancers."

The Cancer Research Campaign believes that development of the two vaccines is a vindication of a long-term research programme it has supported into the viral origins of cancer. Professor Gordon McVie, scientific director of the campaign, said: "Twenty years ago, there were no viruses definitely known to be linked to cancers. Today, at least one in five cancers are thought to be virus-linked, and there may be more."

There is growing evidence that childhood leukaemias, including the "clusters" some blame on radiation from nuclear plants, may have a viral origin.

Synod to debate state link

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

DISESTABLISHMENT of the Church of England is to be debated by the General Synod. The Right Rev Colin Buchanan, an assistant bishop in the Rochester Diocese, has put down a private members' motion for debate by synod.

Bishop Buchanan is a long-standing campaigner for the establishment, but the debate has been given new urgency by the problems surrounding the monarchy and by debates within the church. Some traditionalists argue that a Church of England that has voted itself into becoming a sect, by agreeing to ordain women and thus marginalising traditionalists, is no longer entitled to be the established church.

The Archbishop of York this week advocated a revision of the coronation oath because the religious make-up of the country has changed. Other senior churchmen who do not necessarily support disestablishment believe the time is right to debate the issue again, if only to restate the importance of the relationship between church and state.

Bishop Buchanan's motion calls for the lifting of direct state control from the appointment of diocesan bishops and legislation agreed by synod. It could be debated by synod at its meeting at York in July. If not, it is almost certain to come up in November.

Camilla Parker Bowles has told the Press Complaints Commission that she wishes to make no comment on the taped telephone conversation allegedly between her and the Prince of Wales.

Enquiry dismisses rumours of Scots gay legal conspiracy

By Gillian Bowditch
SCOTTISH CORRESPONDENT

ALLEGATIONS that a circle of Scottish homosexual judges and lawyers conspired to pervert the course of justice were unfounded, Lord Rodger of Earlsferry, the Lord Advocate, told the House of Lords yesterday after the publication of an official enquiry report.

The report, by William Nimmo Smith QC and James Friel, regional prosecutor, found that the "allegations" were "unsubstantiated rumours". The report examined five cases which had been

investigated by the police. In each case, either the Crown had decided not to prosecute or the defendants were acquitted. The report upholds the Crown decision in all cases.

In the Commons, Ian Lang, the Scottish secretary, said the roles of three assistant chief constables had been redefined and some CID officers had been reassigned to uniformed duties as a result of the report.

Mr Lang is due to meet the chief constable to prevent future "misunderstandings" between the police and the Scottish prosecution services.

The Lord Advocate's report followed an enquiry conducted by the Lothian and Borders police in response to suggestions that a number of senior legal figures had

laid themselves open to blackmail or perverted the course of justice because of their homosexual activities or links.

The allegations concerned the Lord Advocates Lord Rodger, Lord Sutherland, senator of the College of Justice, and Douglas Allan, sheriff of Lanark, all of whom are completely cleared by the report.

Robert Henderson QC, whose business activities had been the subject of an investigation but who was never charged because of lack of evidence, is also cleared. He was "not in a position effectively to blackmail the Crown" and "had no influence whatever on the investigation into his business transactions". But the report says that he was one of the main

perpetrators of the belief that there was a list of homosexual judges, a list the enquiry believes never existed.

The report is strongly critical of Chief Insp Roger Orr, who compiled the leaked police report into the alleged homosexual conspiracy. "Assertions that the Crown was sinisterly motivated in the taking of relevant decisions are not only unsupported by any evidence but are not attributed by Orr to identifiable informants," the official enquiry says. "The Orr report engaged in 'disinformation speculation' and suppressed important information."

Two other police officers, Sergeant Peter Brown and Insp Michael Souter, are criticised. Both were members of Lothian and Borders

fraud squad and were involved with some of the five cases under investigation. The official enquiry describes them as "officers who would seize on any rumour which would tend to support a conspiracy theory". Mr Brown had "an animosity against suspects who are professionally qualified and also an animosity against homosexuals. Professionally qualified homosexuals are thus persons about whom Brown would be prepared to entertain grave suspicions."

Although the Labour party welcomed the report, a sceptical note was struck by Sir Nicholas Fairbairn, the Tory member for Perth and Kinross, who questioned the wisdom of "expensive reports and enquiries into rumour".

Footprints foil baby mix-ups

By Bill Frost



Feet first: a print being taken from a newborn baby

TO THE odd howl of protest, midwives at Dudley Road Maternity hospital yesterday began putting into practice techniques learnt from West Midlands police. The staff are taking prints of feet and thumbs from newborn babies to prevent a repetition of the mix-up at a hospital that saw two babies taken home by the wrong parents.

Josephine Campbell-Kelly, a midwife at the hospital in Birmingham, said she had the idea some time before the error at the Princess Anne Maternity Hospital in Southampton. She said that foot and thumb printing did not smack of "big brother" but was a means of giving parents added security.

Twenty midwives have been trained by West Midlands police in fingerprinting techniques. A further 80 members of staff are about to receive instruction.

Jean Golding, assistant maternity services manager, said: "The prints are the ultimate safeguard against mix-ups."

Trauma of dole drives more to mental illness

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

RECORD numbers of unemployed people are seeking psychological help in the face of rapidly rising jobless figures, the British Psychological Society said yesterday.

Though changes in government policy meant that no waiting lists running beyond two years are now countenanced, clinical psychologists say that their actual waiting times in the light of rising joblessness now run well beyond that target figure.

The society said that the unemployed suffered depression, anxiety, distress, ill health and lack of confidence. Such ill-effects did not only affect people who had lost their jobs, but also occurred among people fearful of their prospects.

Some unemployed people struggling with such problems were often considered suicide risks, with the unemployment having an impact

on their families and children, a London news conference was told. Dr Dilly Davies, a clinical psychologist with a Warwickshire health authority, said she was now seeing up to 35 unemployed people every week. "Unemployment is producing devastating traumas among people and making them vulnerable to ill health."

Clinical psychologists said that while many people were referred to them with problems of depression, drugs or alcohol, often the root cause of their difficulties was unemployment. While they could help people who were unemployed, they could do nothing about the root cause — which could be solved only if or when they found a job.

Dr Jenny Cozens, a lecturer at Leeds University, said there was an "indisputable link" between unemployment and mental stress.

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RESOLUTION OF THE SENATE

In view of the United Nations debate on the recognition of the republic of Skopje, the Senate of the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki wishes to make the following statement to the international community.

1. The Senate proclaims its belief in the canons of peaceful co-existence and the principle of self-determination; but it also holds that international disputes should be resolved on the basis of the soundest argument.
2. The Senate applies the same principles to the thorny problem of the recognition of the republic of Skopje. A population, even a multi-ethnic one, unquestionably has the fundamental right to assume the status of an autonomous nation, provided it fulfils the conditions laid down by International Public Law.
3. However, the new state's founding charter must preserve peace, safeguard human rights, and fulfil the necessity for good relations and sincere co-operation with its neighbours, especially at a time when countries all over the world are so closely dependent on one another.

Therefore, neither the name nor the constitutional charter of the nascent state should contain ethnological implications or irredentist allusions which are prejudicial to neighbouring countries — as does the name "Macedonia". Moreover, the distortion of history and the appropriation of another nation's historical symbols (such as the ancient Greek symbol which Skopje's parliament has adopted for the new republic's flag) are not only manifestations of cultural high-handedness, but also violate the principles of the peaceful co-existence of nations.

The Senate appeals to the International Organisations and the members of the United Nations that international recognition of the new state be based on a just and viable solution which will do justice to the historical rights of Greece.

THE RECTOR OF THE UNIVERSITY
Prof. ANTONIOS TRAKATELLIS

ABBEY NATIONAL



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X15



Tory demands enquiry into Hackney fraud allegations

By ANGELA MACKAY AND CHRISTOPHER ELLIOTT

A **TORY** councillor yesterday called on police to investigate allegations of corruption in Hackney, east London, one of Britain's poorest boroughs.

Philip McCullough delivered a dossier to police containing allegations ranging from incompetence to corruption and fraud.

Mr McCullough's accusations concerning the Labour-run borough follow the announcement last week of a public enquiry into claims of fraud against contractors working for Lambeth council, south London. An internal report by Lambeth's council leader concluded that there may have been malpractice on a scale unprecedented in local government.

The Hackney allegations include the payment of excessive and false overtime claims; the covering up of council workers' fraudulent activities; excessive charges for repairs of council housing; payroll irregularities and massive capital works overspend.

Hackney set up its own public enquiry into corruption in 1985 under the auspices of Andrew Arden QC. The enquiry was originally confined to the influence of freemasonry.

Martin Tompkinson, a journalist and author of a book on local government corruption in northeast England, was employed as a special investigator in November 1985 by the Arden team. He left 13 months later after a disagreement over the way the enquiry was developing.

He said: "The people who actually suffer from all of this, who bear the cost both physically and financially, are not the middle classes who moan

Days after allegations of corruption in Lambeth, a Hackney Tory councillor is making similar claims in his own borough

about high rates but the very people the council should be servicing and looking after.

"The housing list gets longer and yet almost nothing ever changes. There is a miasma of incompetence and corruption but the real problem is the scale of the inefficiency makes it very difficult to tell the difference between one and the other."

Mr McCullough said that in the two years since he joined the council he had been surprised by the number of allegations of misuse of funds — both illegal and simply careless — which had been brought to his attention. He said his documents contained allegations which, if proven, mean that "several million pounds of council funds have been wasted".

Among the documents are several computer printouts of wages paid in 1990 and 1991 which show that many workers received more than £30,000 with almost half of this being derived from overtime, some of which is alleged to have been falsely claimed.

Also included are several examples of purported overcharging by those undertaking council repairs. For example, the cost of rewater-proofing an asphalt roof of a house on one estate came to £5,000 while the replacement of two doors and a kitchen sink in a house cost £1,026.27.

Some of the allegations concern individuals not declaring interests in associations that are granted funds by the borough.

John McCafferty, leader of Hackney council, said "I'm very unhappy about all of this. Most of this is historical and we have now sorted Hackney. We have changed now. Many of these allegations have been dug up from the mid eighties. It's only political opportunism because of Lambeth."

Claims of financial mismanagement and corruption have been made several times in the past. Scotland Yard's fraud squad was called in two years ago following the discovery that a number of council officers had been illegally letting empty council properties for cash in hand. Their investigation widened and charges followed.

A former senior council officer was convicted yesterday of an £88,000 dole and housing benefit fraud.

Peter Smith, 49, a housing benefit section leader with Hackney council, stole not only from his direct employers

but from Kettering District Council in Northamptonshire as well.

A jury at Snaresbrook Crown Court, east London, took three hours to find him guilty of 14 counts of theft and eight of obtaining property by deception from 1985 to 1991.

Margaret Smith, 44, his wife, had pleaded guilty after the first week of the trial to three charges of theft and three charges of obtaining property by deception.

Mr Smith used his knowledge of council computer access codes to make a series of bogus claims for benefits and allowances from Hackney and Kettering. The couple's home is in Kettering.

Mr Smith, who had pleaded not guilty, was remanded in custody until February 19 when he will be sentenced with his wife.

Judge Hitching said: "This matter involved more than £80,000 over a period of five years by someone abusing a position of trust. There is only one outcome — and the only question is how long is the sentence."

A number of members of staff were also sacked.



Double top: identical twins Louise, left, and Jane Wilson, 25, from Newcastle upon Tyne, yesterday received the £10,000 first prize in the annual Barclays Young Artist award. The award, presented at the Serpentine Gallery in

London, was for 8.30, 1993, a photographic work that Barclays said "uses photography to show domestic spaces with traces of burglary, murder or suicide. Their work can be quite sinister, it is haunting and of a very high standard."

Princess wins sex libel case

A Romanian princess accepted substantial undisclosed libel damages yesterday over a story alleging that she had a lesbian lover and had gone out with the son of Nicolae Ceausescu.

The item in London's *Evening Standard*, said Princess Margarita, 43, had admitted details about her sex life in an interview with *Harper's and Queen*. The High Court was told the allegations were untrue and caused her great distress. Her counsel said she gave the interview to publicise a charitable foundation that raised money for Romania.

Associated Newspapers accepted the allegations were wholly false and unreservedly withdrew them.

Woman missing

Fears are growing for Linda Fleming, 23, a trainee pharmacist at Northowram Hospital, Halifax, West Yorkshire, missing since leaving her parents' home in the town for work on Friday.

Boy drowns

The body of Zoltan Hatoer, 14, of Wilton, Somerset, who fell into the sea, has been found on rocks near the harbour wall at Watchet.

Busted flush

Darlington council in co. Durham is closing its cubicle-style automatic public toilets and reopening a toilet block with an attendant because of lack of usage.

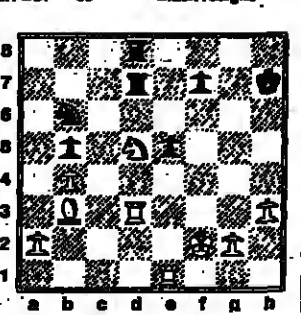
Short holds upper hand in chess

NIGEL Short was in a dominant position yesterday as he and his Dutch opponent, Jan Timman, began the eleventh game of their World Chess Championship final eliminator match in Spain.

Short, 27, leads 6-4 and needs 1½ points from the four remaining games to clinch the 14-game series. Timman, 41, needs three points to tie the contest and take it into extra time. The winner will challenge Gary Kasparov for the world championship later this year.

There was an error in yesterday's moves for game 10. The correct moves were:

Game 10			
White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	g5	22 b4	mb4
2 Nf3	h4	23 Nc3	h4
3 Bc4	g4	24 Nc4	h4
4 Bb3	h3	25 Bb3	h4
5 Bxg4	h2	26 Bb3	h4
6 Bf1	h1	27 Nf5	h4
7 Bg2	h1	28 Nf5	h4
8 Bf1	h1	29 Nf5	h4
9 Bf1	h1	30 Nf5	h4
10 Bf1	h1	31 Nf5	h4
11 Bf1	h1	32 Nf5	h4
12 Bf1	h1	33 Nf5	h4
13 Bf1	h1	34 Nf5	h4
14 Bf1	h1	35 Nf5	h4
15 Bf1	h1	36 Nf5	h4
16 Bf1	h1	37 Nf5	h4
17 Bf1	h1	38 Nf5	h4
18 Bf1	h1	39 Nf5	h4
19 Bf1	h1	40 Nf5	h4
20 Bf1	h1	41 Nf5	h4
21 Bf1	h1	42 Nf5	h4



The final position

Gambling fraudster was on a big loser

By PAUL WILKINSON

WHEN Brian McGregor, an unemployed woodcutter, altered a £1 wager slip from his local bookies, he did not know he was attempting the biggest fraud in criminal history.

But Ladbroke's calculator his pay-out would total £3,826,470,000,000,000, ten times Britain's gross national product. Thus it was the police and not the money waiting for him when he returned for his winnings.

According to his betting slip, McGregor's four-line accumulator had correctly forecast the results of all 61 league football matches played on Boxing day. When the police attempted to work out his winnings on

their computer it could not handle the astronomical figures involved, magistrates at Hexham, Northumberland, were told yesterday. It took the Ladbroke's machine to discover the figure was almost £4,000 billion.

"He had no idea of the potential sums involved," said Frances Lennox, for the prosecution. McGregor, 24, from Buchlyvie, Central Scotland, admitted forging the slip with intent to deceive the Ladbroke's office in Hexham and was remanded on bail for a month for probation reports.

The offence carries a maximum fine of £5,000 or six months in jail.

I knew my local Jobcentre

specialised in catering, but

I never expected to be invited

there for breakfast.

Mind you, it's a pretty good

way for them to show employers

what they can offer.

And not having been to o

Jobcentre for some time (maybe

that's why I was invited) I was

impressed with the services

that are available to me.

I'd always thought that

they just stuck up odds in their

Jobcentre.

But we were told how they

can put ads in local papers, an

local radio and even on Teletext.

We found out about the 'Job

Interview Guarantee' programme.

One of its advantages is

that it makes sure that only

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I WAS
OFFERED COFFEE,
CROISSANTS
AND THE WAITER
ON A
WORK TRIAL.”



the applicants with a realistic

chance of getting your job get

on interview.

They told us how it's usually

possible to conduct your inter-

views at the Jobcentre.

And how you can even take

someone on for up to 3 weeks'

work trial to make sure they're

right for your job.

Then they told us that the

waiters serving us were from

a local catering college, and

were now looking for jobs

themselves.

Needless to say, there were

fewer of them looking by the

time they'd finished serving.

For more information please

contact your local Jobcentre. If

you need the number phone

0800 39 00 00 free of charge.

JOB CENTRE



Heir to porn empire killed by accidental drug overdose

By NICHOLAS WAIT

DEBBIE Raymond, heir to the £80 million pornography and property empire built up by her father Paul, died accidentally from drug poisoning, a coroner ruled yesterday.

The inquest in London was told that Miss Raymond, a mother of two, snorted heroin and cocaine and washed it down with a bottle of vodka the night before her death. Recording a verdict of accidental death, the St Pancras coroner Dr Ian Sheddin described Miss Raymond as a chronic drug abuser.

Miss Raymond, who was 36 and editor-in-chief of her father's eight soft-porn magazines, died on the morning of November 5 last year at her boy friend's flat in Belsize Park, north London.

Ainsley Tree, a graphic designer, woke to find her unconscious after a nine-hour drink and drugs session, which he described as a "normal" evening. However, he said it had been the first time she had taken heroin.

Mr Tree, who met Miss Raymond at a club in Antigua six months before her death, said she arrived at his house at about 6pm and snorted drugs throughout the evening. She became "considerably intoxicated" and the couple went to bed in the early hours of the morning.

"When I woke up I tried to wake her," Mr Tree said. "She wouldn't wake so I thought she must be joking. I thought I'd try and wake her by putting her under the session. I lifted her up and she still did not wake up. I took her back to the bed and tried to give her mouth-to-mouth and water came out of her mouth." Mr Tree called an ambulance and Miss Raymond was taken to the Royal Free hospital, Hampstead, where she died.

Dr Freddy Patel, a pathologist, told the inquest that he

found "extremely high" levels of morphine, a sign of heroin, in Miss Raymond's blood. She had 165 micrograms per litre compared with the lethal level of 120 micrograms. Dr Patel concluded that the cause of death was opiate poisoning.

Miss Raymond had been treated for depression for more than two years before her death. Dr Gerald Libby, a Harley Street psychiatrist who saw her the day before she died, said he was concerned by her recklessness. He said: "She was her usual gregarious, I would say worried, self. She worried about fulfilling her commitments."

Miss Raymond died a month after the break-up of her marriage to her second husband John James, with whom she had a ten-month-old daughter called India Rose. The father of her six-year-old daughter Pawn was Duncan Mackay, formerly of the rock group 10CC.

She had recently discovered that she was suffering from cancer and had undergone a double mastectomy.

Jenny Smith, Paul Raymond's housekeeper, said that Miss Raymond was in high spirits when she spoke on the telephone the night before her death.

"She was perfectly happy and in control of herself. I definitely don't think she was at all suicidal that night," Mrs Smith said.

Miss Raymond's brother Howard, 34, a merchant banker, told the inquest Miss Raymond seemed "in exceedingly good spirits" when he saw her four days before her death.

Dr Sheddin said that although Miss Raymond suffered from depression there was no evidence of suicide. "She was a young woman who had very much to live for. She had marital problems but was very deeply attached to her children and had formed an important relationship with a man."

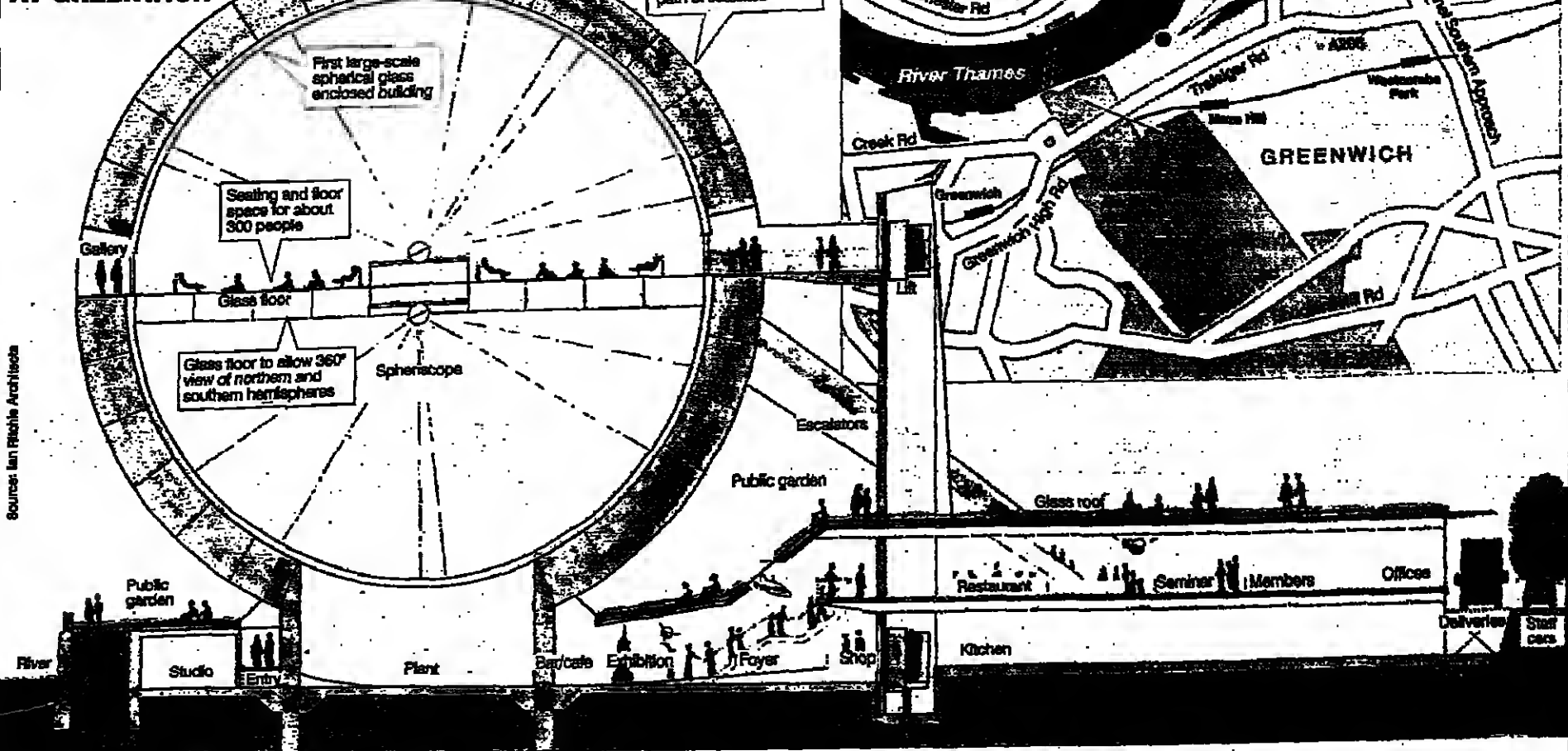
Paul Raymond, 67, proprietor of the Raymond Revuebar in Soho, made no comment after the hearing. But Miss Raymond's sister-in-law Maria, 36, said: "It has been a very trying time for the family. They would like for Debbie to rest in peace now. It's been very sad and we would like to put it behind us." Her mother and second husband also attended the inquest.

Miss Raymond had been groomed to take over her father's entertainment empire. Her personal fortune was estimated at £37 million.



Raymond: described as a chronic drug abuser

MERIDIAN PLANETARIUM AT GREENWICH



Star turn: a spherical planetarium providing the world's first 360-degree view of the stars may be built on the meridian at Greenwich, riverside. (Marcus Binney writes.) The floor will turn transparent as

shows begin in the 100ft diameter sphere, revealing the stars of the southern hemisphere below and the northern hemisphere above, and giving visitors the feeling that they are floating in space. The

planetarium will be designed by the architect Ian Ritchie. Bill Bailey, chairman of the Society for the Meridian Planetarium, said: "We have outline planning permission from Greenwich council and

are negotiating a lease with Morden College, the site owners. We are seeking to raise £15 million in donations, subscriptions, debentures and loans." The outer all-glass skin will at night become an

internally illuminated model of the earth, showing the path of satellites. If the money can be raised, Mr Bailey said, the sphere would take four years to complete. Ritchie profile, page 34

Scientists test facial fingerprint

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE police could soon be using facial "fingerprints" to catch criminals.

British researchers are developing a computerised system that should virtually prove that photographs taken at banks and building societies match a suspect's face. Recent court rulings have cast doubt on the reliability of photographic and video evidence.

The system, which is being backed by the Police Foundation in London, is seen as an equivalent of DNA finger-

printing, by which scientists rate the likelihood of two people carrying a similar genetic pattern.

Researchers are studying the frequency with which features may be identical within the population, such as the distance between the eyes and the angle between the tip of the nose and the chin. Leslie Bowie, project leader for BAeSEMA, the Glasgow company behind the project, said: "We are looking to see how these can be combined so that

you can say in court that there is only a one in 2,000 to 10,000 chance that the photograph is of a different person."

At present, security cameras often capture poor quality images of a criminal. People with different faces but similar hair styles can appear as the same person to jurors.

The new system, which will involve studying 10,000 faces on data bases, should make identification more scientific and thus more successful in court.

Insurance cost cut on secure cars

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

FALLING premiums for motorists whose vehicles meet new security standards were offered by the insurance industry yesterday at the launch of an initiative to combat car crime.

A guidebook giving insurers' criteria for alarm systems and features such as door locks and immobilising devices is expected to be in operation by the end of March. It is hoped the move will lead to a big cut in car crime, for which insurers are paying out £626 million a year. Almost 600,000 vehicles were stolen in 1991 and more than 900,000 thefts from cars reported — 28 per cent of recorded crime.

Under the scheme, the motor insurance research centre at Thatcham in Berkshire will assess the effectiveness of new car and "retrofit" security systems, setting premiums accordingly.

The guide also gives technical specifications for fitting security systems and says insurers will not recognise DIY-fitted alarms. Motorists with cars fitted with the approved security measures should be able to benefit from lower premiums.

Cinema adds millions to audience figures

By PETER FIDDIS

THE commercial cinema in Britain attracted bigger crowds in 1992 than for 12 years, mainly because of Hollywood movies.

While Emma Thompson, Joan Plowright and Miranda Richardson were giving the performances which this week won them Golden Globe awards in California, British audiences were flocking to *Basic Instinct*, *Hook* and *Lethal Weapon 3*.

Figures compiled by Gallup for the Cinema Advertising Association showed admissions last year at 98 million, an increase of 6 per cent on

1991, the highest total since 1980 and the eighth successive year of growth. The survey covers cinemas that show advertisements. The addition of the "arts cinema" sector, which swell the total by a few million, are unlikely to change the overall trend.

A final quarter boom culminated in December's 63 per cent increase over December 1991. Releases for the pre-Christmas season, including *Home Alone 2* and *The Bodyguard*, made the month the best December since 1974.

Media, pages 18-19

A-Z of current movies

Aliens Three "engagingly wry"
Batman Four "ends with a killing"
Chinatown Six "hundreds die"
Dracula Fifteen "never more thrilling"
Exorcist Ten "subtle and ironic"
Fatal Attraction Two "artistically framed"
Goodfellas Three "a fizzy tonic"
Hell From Start to Finish "hundreds wistfully maimed"
I Spit On Your Grave "woman tastefully strangled"
Jaws Ten "shark wryly eats gid"

The way it isn't

Knives Galore "family ironically mangled"
Laser Killer "a genuine pearl"
Man Bites Dog "homage to film noir"
Nightmare on Elm Street "Twenty" "brilliantly shot"
Ooh! Arrgh! "wry mass-murder of choir"

Psychic Seven "I laughed a lot"
Quick Death Three "genitally lyrical"
Reservoir Dogs "witty death of a jinx"
Shining Two "savagely witty miracle"
Terminator Returns "and this time he's bitter"
Undercover Kop "torture most wry"
Vile and Nasty "atmospheric and stunning"
Wild Bunch Seven "made me laugh and cry"
X Marks the Spot "deservedly long-running"
Yet Another Mad Axeman "wryly sentimental"
Zardak the Rapist "ironic and gentle"

TOP 20 FILMS IN BRITAIN

1	Basic Instinct	£15.5m	11	JFK	£7.0m
2	Hook	£13.1m	12	Beethoven	£6.8m
3	Lethal Weapon 3	£11.5m	13	Father Of The Bride	£6.6m
4	Batman Returns	£11.0m	14	Alien 3	£6.6m
5	The Godfather Part II	£10.4m	15	Patriot Games	£6.5m
6	Cape Fear	£10.4m	16	Hot Shots	£6.4m
7	Beauty And The Beast	£9.7m	17	Bill And Ted's Bogus Journey	£6.4m
8	Wayne's World	£9.1m	18	Far And Away	£6.3m
9	My Girl	£7.8m	19	Unforgotten	£6.7m
10	Hand That Rocks The Cradle	£7.3m	20	Snow White	£4.7m

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The OSRAM DULUX® EL range of light bulbs is creating a revolution in home lighting.

Thanks to advanced electronic technology they use only 20% of the energy of conventional light bulbs but produce the same amount of light, resulting in an 80% saving on your home lighting bills.

With average usage, an OSRAM DULUX® EL bulb will go on working for many years in which time you would have burned out several conventional bulbs and paid up to £48.00 more in electricity costs.

	OSRAM DULUX® EL 20 Watt	Conventional 100 Watt Light Bulb
Electricity Cost at £0.075 kWh Based on 8,000 hrs nominal life	£12.00	£60.00
Lamp Cost	£15.00	£4.00
Total Cost	£27.00	£64.00
Saving	£37.00	

N.B. lamps costs based on the average price for a OSRAM DULUX® EL bulb and 8 x standard 100 W bulbs at £0.50 each.

Multiply that saving by the number of light bulbs in your home and you'll see the enormous benefit switching to OSRAM will bring.

So you save money, but you don't lose any light — 11, 15, 20 and 23 W electronic OSRAM DULUX® EL bulbs give out the same amount of light as conventional 60, 75, 100 and 2 x 60 W bulbs.



The OSRAM DULUX® EL Guarantee:

Changing to OSRAM now is guaranteed to cost you nothing in the long run.

We'll refund your money in full if the bulb fails for technical reasons during the first 2 years of normal domestic usage, average 5 hours per day. However, our quality standards make this unlikely. Our guarantee is in addition to your legal and consumer statutory rights.

Within 2 years the OSRAM DULUX® EL will have paid for itself in energy savings and thereafter will start saving you money. So either way you can't lose.

The OSRAM DULUX® EL range of bulbs can replace your ordinary light bulbs for general use throughout the home. They are a must where light bulbs are left on for long periods and are ideal for security purposes.

Combine all these uses with a lighter electricity bill and that has to be good news at times like these.

Offer starts October 26th 1992 and ends April 30th 1993.

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OSRAM

Stockists: Texas Homecare; Tesco (selected stores); HOMEbase; SEEBOARD; East Midlands Electricity; IKEA; Marweb and leading electrical retailers. Prices from £13.99.

Tories threaten ministers with defeat over coal

By Jill Sherman and Sheila Gunn

TORY MPs warned ministers last night that the government risked defeat unless they supported the £550 million rescue package for Britain's coal industry drawn up by the Commons trade and industry committee.

The threat came as Labour indicated that it would table an amendment supporting the committee's recommendations to any government motion after the energy white paper is published next month. Tory rebels who voted against the government on its last October suggested that they would support Labour's amendment.

However, MPs on the energy and industry committees are still divided yesterday night fresh subsidies for the coal industry and possible controls on other energy producers, such as nuclear and gas-fired power stations. There were signs that most of the key recommendations in the report, to be published on Friday, will not be sanctioned by some Tory MPs.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, was close to reaching agreement with colleagues over a

The government faces new rebellion unless it accepts a select committee's £550 million pits rescue package

rescue package also costing around £500 million for the coal industry. At a meeting yesterday of the special cabinet committee on coal, Mr Heseltine abandoned the option of making electricity consumers pay for the special levy. Ministers will recommend that it is fully funded by the Treasury. He is talking colleagues that, until March 31, this year, there is a £1 billion subsidy for coal to ease electricity generators' requirements to buy coal from British pits rather than importing lower-priced foreign coal.

Mr Heseltine privately argues that a subsidy amounting to £500 million can be justified as a transitional initiative while British Coal becomes more competitive, rather than a significant policy change.

John Smith, the Labour leader, blamed the pits debate on the government's "rigging" of the electricity market, a point now conceded by most

ministers. During Commons questions he said it was little short of astonishing that, even now, ministers did not understand that the crisis arose from the "botched privatisation of the electricity industry, and not from weakness within the mining industry."

Tory MPs who opposed the original 31 pit closures meet today to discuss how far the government needs to compromise to get their vote. A leading member of the Conservative Coal Group, which was set up last December, said it was likely that the 30-strong group would back the select committee's report if it recommended a reprieve of between 15 and 20 pits.

Nicholas Winter, MP for Macclesfield, who was one of six Tories who voted against the government last October, said that if the government proposed a smaller reprieve for the coal industry than that suggested by the committee, it could be defeated in the Commons.

Early in yesterday's private sessions of the trade and industry committee, most of the Conservative MPs made it clear that they would vote against the draft report's recommendations for controls on gas-fired power stations.

While Tory MPs would not budge from a 15 million tonne expansion in the coal market, Labour MPs were pushing for 20 million tonnes, saving an extra five pits.

Nor could they agree on changing the regime for the nuclear industry. By lunchtime the only one of the key recommendations agreed unanimously was to control Orkney, a stumpy-based fuel.

At the core of the committee's report, drafted by the Labour chairman, Richard Crampton, is a financial package amounting to a £5-a-tonne coal subsidy.

Shock of losing jobs for life saps communities' spirits



Hanging around: pit deputy Tony Bell, who predicts disaster for Seaham if Vane Tempest closes, reports at the mine yesterday

Dawn patrol offers no hope of a brighter day

By Paul Wilkinson

EVERY working day since last October, Tony Bell has got up before dawn to clock on at the Vane Tempest mine in Seaham, co. Durham. Every morning soon after sunrise he retraces the 20 miles to his home across the county at Conboe, having spent little more than ten minutes at "work".

It is a daily ritual that will continue until British Coal and the government decide what will happen to his mine. Vane Tempest was one of the ten pits selected for immediate closure three months ago but reprieved when public outrage overcame the government.

No coal has been cut since last autumn and only essential safety work is carried out for the day when mining might resume. Meanwhile, Mr Bell is compelled to turn up, sign on and then go. "There are only a handful of people who still actually work here," he said. "I return home every day and feel wasted." More than half of the 870 staff have taken redundancy.

A weekly wage packet manages some short-term subsistence, but as Mr Bell spends each day at his mortgaged home, with his wife and two young children, there are the ever-present fears of what will happen when the 90-day review period ends this week.

Like many workmates, Mr Bell believed he was taking a job for life when he signed on with the National

Bankruptcy devastates proud mining towns

From Michael Binyon in Bonn

EASTERN Germany used to be almost entirely dependent on brown coal or lignite for all its energy needs, and in the former communist state miners held a position of special economic importance, as well as ideological veneration.

Now the industry faces virtual bankruptcy. Thousands of miners will be laid off, mining towns emptied and electricity supplied through a unified German grid using cleaner western German hard coal or other energy sources.

From a maximum of 130,000 miners, producing about 300 million tonnes of brown coal — three times the total in western Germany in 1989 — only about 20,000 to 30,000 miners will be employed in the East by the end of the decade. The number of active mines has fallen from 40 in 1989, the last year of the former East Germany, to 15, producing about 100 million tonnes.

Mining in East Germany was dirty, primitive and unhealthy to miners and the environment. The huge open-cast mines and slag-heaps still scar the landscape and clean-up operations will cost billions. Restoring the landscape may soon become the main source of employment for laid-off miners. Extraction machinery was primitive and the power-generation plants ineffi-

cient and polluting. The acrid smell of brown coal smoke used to hang over all eastern German towns and the pollution was among the worst in Europe. Smog, lung disease and a constant film of grey dust on all streets and open surfaces characterised mining towns.

The miners were proud of their jobs, and have fought fiercely to prevent the death of their close-knit communities, with marches, petitions and demonstrations. Mining towns in the East, as in Britain, were old communities, founded at the start of the industrial revolution. In the former East Germany, where state investment was at a standstill, many looked much as they had before the second world war.

Only now is the damage inflicted by the coal industry in eastern Germany becoming apparent. For example, in G6rlitz, Saxony, the air contains 474 milligrams of sulphur monoxide per cubic metre — more than twice the permitted maximum.

Nearly half the population is out of work in some communities. In future, east and west will rely more on natural gas. Mibrag, the company now for sale to PowerGen, has its mines in the Leipzig area. A former workforce of 57,000 is likely to be reduced to 8,000.



Changing face: the coal industry in 1947-8, top, and how it will look if the government's review accepts what are understood to be the proposals of the Commons trade and industry select committee

Power broker wields an ironic influence

By Sheila Gunn, Political Correspondent

MICHAEL Clark, a Conservative MP on the Commons trade and industry committee, has long argued during the great pits debate: "Surely it is better that we subsidise the coal industry rather than subsidise unemployment."

While his comment explains why he never reached the ministerial ladder under Margaret Thatcher, the philosophy of the chemist from Rochford will be the determining force in the committee's report.

The committee is made up of six Conservative and five Opposition party MPs. Dr Clark has become the power broker. There is a splendid irony about his influence. When chairman of the Commons energy committee, he produced a report censuring Cecil (now Lord) Parkinson for his handling of the electricity privatisation. Conservative whips were so outraged, they vowed vengeance. Sure

enough, when Dr Clark pleaded for his committee to continue until after the privatisation of the coal industry, they ignored him.

Dr Clark campaigned for the chairmanship of the trade and industry committee, as compensation. In what appears an act of spite, Labour was handed the chair.

If he now has a somewhat jaundiced view about the coal dispute, it is probably because he warned ministers a year ago in a report on the impact of government policy on Britain's remaining pits. Dr Clark pestered ministers to invest in a new generation of "clean" coal-fired power stations and is unashamedly pro-nuclear. Unlike some of his colleagues, he holds no romantic attachment to coal mines but believes they have been treated unfairly.

Cabinet haunted by spectre of 1970s

The cabinet's troubles over the coal industry review are largely self-inflicted. The whole affair has assumed a political prominence out of proportion to its economic or industrial significance. This reflects a mix of the timing, the symbolism of the coal industry for the Tories and the resulting intense battle within the cabinet.

Just as the spectre of devaluation has haunted Labour, so the problems of the coal industry have dogged Tory governments since 1970 — in particular, the Heath administration's humiliating climbdown at the end of the 1972 miners' strike and its disastrous confrontation with the National Union of Mine-workers in 1973-4. The Thatcher government was more cautious, backing away from a battle in 1981 to prepare for the strike that came in 1984-5. The eventual defeat of the union exorcised the nightmares of 1972-4. With the union weakened, the industry con-

tracted in a gradual way which attracted little public attention.

The privatisation of the electricity generators, the "dash for gas" and renegotiation of contracts with British Coal threatened a much sharper fall in demand. The political mistake last autumn was to abandon contraction by stealth and go for a "big bang" with the proposed closure of 31 pits. This was bound to attract more public attention, but what generated such a public outcry was the timing, at the depths of the recession. The government looked out of touch.

The consequent climb-down was mainly a means of retreating to a more politically tenable position. The details of how many pits to reprieve, for how long and to raise the necessary money are secondary.

Recriminations over who

was responsible for last October's fiasco have affected this debate. There are a variety of explanations, ranging from failure by the trade and industry department to question British Coal's plans sufficiently, via a concentration by Michael Heseltine on arguments with the Treasury about redundancy payments, to a general loss of political touch by senior ministers after the economic crisis of mid-September.

The small group of broadly Thatcherite ministers are personally wary about Mr Heseltine. They are suspicious about his interventionist views and worry that any long-term subsidy for coal would represent a return to the bailing-out of loss-making industries. These ideological differences have been reinforced by a sacking out of positions ahead of the expected cabinet reshuffle this summer, reflected in briefing and counter-briefing last week on behalf of Mr

Heseltine, Gillian Shephard, Michael Howard and the Treasury ministers.

The additional component making the arguments more public than usual has been the enquiries by two Commons select committees: employment and trade and industry, which was finalising its report yesterday. Mr Heseltine has said he will take that report into account in preparing his revised proposals, so what the select committee recommends matters more than usual.

Like the former whip he still is at heart, John Major has sought to minimise ideological and personal disputes. He sees the matter not as one of great principle or precedent but of practical politics. His aim is simply to get the story out of the headlines. The outcome will, however, affect not only the future of Mr Heseltine but also the government's general political authority.

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£2m drive to reduce NHS waiting list

By ROBERT MORGAN, POLITICAL STAFF

THE government is stepping up its drive to cut hospital waiting times and changing the rules for fund-holding general practitioners, Virginia Bottomley, the health secretary, announced last night. She said that £2 million is to be made available to fund 30 "pacer" projects.

Speaking during a Labour-sponsored debate in the Commons, Mrs Bottomley said that since the health service reforms were introduced two years ago there had been a marked reduction in the time spent waiting for operations. The pacer initiative would bring fresh focus to this task. It would harness innovation and spread good practice. In some areas operations will be carried out at weekends, in others nurses and physiotherapists will see their roles broadened.

"These are exciting and original schemes," Mrs

Bottomley said. "They demonstrate how NHS staff can turn vision into reality."

Mrs Bottomley made clear she was tightening the rules governing the commercial affairs of GPs who manage their own budgets to buy hospital treatment for their patients. Allegations have been made that some were making large profits by trading with companies they set up and own themselves.

GPs have resorted to this because existing regulations stop GPs being paid for services such as some diagnostic tests usually done in hospital.

Under Mrs Bottomley's proposed changes in the regulations limited companies will not be necessary. Existing contracts with companies would be allowed to run their course but new contracts of this kind will not be allowed. The health secretary also

announced that capital spending on the health service next year would top £2 billion for the first time, and she chided Labour for having cut capital spending while in power.

Mrs Bottomley opened her speech by attacking Labour for pointing up individual cases in an attempt to show what was wrong with the health service. But, she said, millions of patients were satisfied with the care they received. Recalling the "Jennifer's cat" case before the election, Mrs Bottomley said that Labour had turned the children's wards into a political battleground.

However, opening the debate, David Blunkett, the shadow health secretary, said that the health service was underfunded, it was being undermined and was under the direction of an indecisive secretary of state.

She was, he said, "a sophistication of statistics invented by the PR department". Statistics were a farce and a fiddle. Waiting lists were getting longer and the government was now using a new technique, not putting patients on waiting lists, thus creating "a distortion worthy of George Orwell". Decisions were needed, but there was nothing from the secretary of state.

Yes, when Mrs Bottomley was interviewed and told everyone how good things were, journalists became star struck as she gave them her beguiling smile and mother-superior view of the world.



Pointing the finger: actors in ghastly Tibetan costume fingerprint the Rt Rev Alastair Haggart, former Bishop of Edinburgh and Primus of the Episcopal Church in Scotland, at Westminster yesterday. The stunt was staged by members of the Lords and the cast of a new play, *Worlds Apart*, by Paul Sirett, which is set in an airport's immigration section. In the chamber later, the government came under cross-party criticism for its proposals, under the asylum and immigration appeals bill, to restrict

the number of people applying to enter Britain (Arthur Leathley writes). Peers said that Britain's reputation as a safe haven for refugees would be ruined by plans to curb the number of immigrants and asylum-seekers.

Members on both sides of the Lords spoke of Britain's traditional generosity to foreigners fleeing from regimes under which they faced torture, persecution or even death. They predicted that a climate of inhospitality and bias would greet

those seeking asylum in this country. The main objections to the bill surround the removal of appeal rights of short-term visitors and students refused entry to Britain, and the tightening up of appeal procedures for asylum seekers. The government claims that it has been forced to toughen its appeals rules because it is faced with a backlog of more than 40,000 asylum appeals and a six-fold increase in the number of appeals over the past three years. Earl Ferrers, for the government,

told peers that Britain had been "enormously understanding and conciliatory" despite "quite intolerable" abuses of the asylum system, including cases of people making as many as 34 applications in different names. The second reading of the bill drew extensive criticism of the reasoning behind the proposed changes. Lord McIntosh of Harrogate, for the Opposition, said that the bill failed to take into account the increasing amount of migration throughout the world.

Lib Dems accept reform

THE Liberal Democrats yesterday embraced much of the government's widely criticised internal market structure for the NHS in launching the party's own new health care programme (Jonathan Prynn writes).

However, the Lib Dems have decided to allow at least a year for consultation with health service professionals before committing themselves to an official policy.

"There is no point in formulating a health policy that

health professionals believe to be unworkable, and that is what happened with the government's reforms," Liz Lynne, the party's health and community care spokesman, said.

Although she had been opposed to the government's health service reforms, she said, she recognised that by the time of the next election up to 90 per cent of GPs could be fundholders and that it was better to adapt the system than to start from scratch.

Press to get a 'last chance' on privacy

By NICHOLAS WOOD, AND PHILIP WEBSTER IN DELHI

JOHN Major is considering giving the press one last chance to put its own house in order before bringing in a tough new privacy law.

Senior government sources have indicated during the prime minister's visit to India that Mr Major is not yet committed to the call in the second Calcutt report for the creation of a new tort (civil wrong) of infringement of privacy.

They said that if Mr Major were to be convinced that the newspaper industry was serious about toughening up the Press Complaints Commission, and determined to make self-regulation work, he might stay his hand. They described such a concession as an "option". Mr Major's stance partly mirrors that of David Mellor, the former national heritage secretary, who said in 1989, before the publication of the first Calcutt report, that the popular press was "drinking in the last-chance saloon". Mr Major appears to be suggesting that there is time for at least another round before closing time.

Peter Brooke, the national heritage secretary, has said that the government is considering taking up the recommendation of giving com-

plaintants the right to sue for compensation in the courts if they believe their lives have been unreasonably invaded by intrusive behaviour or reporting.

But the prime minister has let it be known that if newspaper editors and proprietors take urgent steps to strengthen significantly the existing self-regulatory framework, he may not proceed with the key recommendation in the Calcutt report on infringement of privacy. One problem with a privacy law enforceable through the courts is that it would require an extension of the legal-aid system to bring redress within the grasp of most people. As Mr Brooke has pointed out, a solution could be the creation of something along the lines of small claims courts.

The government has ruled out the most contentious of the Calcutt recommendations — the creation of a statutory press tribunal to police newspapers. If Mr Major decides he can safely abandon the need for a privacy law, legislation is likely to be limited to the creation of new criminal offences outlawing unauthorised entry to private property, telephone tapping, and bugging private premises.

Farmers' income rises

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARM incomes rose sharply last year, reversing the downward trend of most of the last decade, and are likely to improve further this year, the agriculture ministry said yesterday. This good news failed to lift the mood of habitual gloom in the farming community.

David Nash, president of the National Farmers' Union, said: "There is no cause for celebration. Real incomes remain below the average prevailing at the start of the 1980s and investment is down to alarmingly low levels compared with ten years ago."

Total income from farming amounted to £2,831 million last year, an increase of £379

million, or 15.5 per cent, on 1991. John Gummer, the agriculture minister, told the Commons. After allowing for inflation, this represented a real gain of 11.4 per cent, far higher than in most other sectors of the economy.

Mr Gummer's disclosures took the wind out of the sails of about 200 sheep farmers who met yesterday in Westminster Cathedral Hall to protest against cuts in hill subsidies, and afterwards walked to the Commons to lobby their MPs. The cuts will save the Exchequer about £20 million.

Mr Nash said much of the improvement was accounted for by lower interest rates and devaluation of the pound.

Sex and the single market

By JONATHAN PRYNN

IT WAS a very Tory sex scene. Two dozen MPs and peers from the party of individual liberty sat in silent and stony-faced judgment on Red Hot Dutch, the Euro-porn channel now being beamed into British homes.

The only relief to the increasingly torrid atmosphere in Commons committee room 19 came when one passing MP performed the biggest double-take of his career after barging in expecting to find the transport committee.

As MPs turned up to this most top-shelf of committee

meetings, an increasingly rowdy tabloid ratpack gathered to tick off names. At one point the hub-hub necessitated a school-masterly telling off from Irvine Patnick, the government whip present. A technical hitch almost scuppered the scrutiny by the Tory back-bench media group when the television set failed to turn up at the committee room at the appointed hour.

After the four and a half minute clip of explicit activity had run its course, MPs and peers emerged blinking into the light, some outraged, many silent. Lady Olga Maitland, the pro-nuclear bomb

campaigner, appeared the most upset, damning the sequence as "utterly depressing". The majority view was summed up by one peer, who muttered almost in disappointment: "Seen much worse." A previous media group meeting with Andrew Neil had been much more shocking, another said.

The committee seemed more concerned by its impotence in the face of Europe. An EC directive blocking any member state from jamming broadcasts from any other member state overrides domestic legislation such as the Obscene Publications Act.



Frigate deal signed

Britain and France have signed an agreement on the joint development of a new anti-aircraft warfare frigate, Jonathan Aitken, the defence procurement minister of state disclosed.

Attempts to find a sponsor to keep the RAF's last Vulcan bomber flying have failed, Mr Aitken said. There was no further justification for delaying sale of the giant delta-winged aircraft and tenders would be issued next week.

No fly zone

The government is seeking to keep clear of the row between British Airways and Virgin Atlantic. The issue was raised in the Commons by Peter Mandelson, Labour MP for Hartlepool. Tony Newton, Leader of the House, standing in for the absent prime minister, said it had been the subject of legal action "and I do not think it would be appropriate for me to comment further".

Safety drive

A Tory backbencher introduced a bill to restrict newly qualified drivers to lower powered cars bearing special "P" plates. The government is considering such a move and Simon Burns (Chesham) said he recognised that his bill would not become law.

In Parliament

Commons (2.30): Questions: environment. European Communities (amendment) bill, committee continued. Lords (2.30): Debates on city transport and on staff in children's homes.



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South Africa to demolish education apartheid

■ The Bantu Education Act is a dead letter. Racial schools will not receive state money

FROM MICHAEL HAMMILL IN CAPE TOWN

A REVOLUTION in education, establishing a totally non-racial and equitable system throughout South Africa, was announced yesterday by Pieter Marais, the minister for national education.

The announcement, set out in the equivalent of a departmental white paper and called the Education Renewal Strategy, proposes a single non-racial education policy, in which every child is entitled to schooling up to the highest level according to his ability.

This unitary education policy will be laid down by a central authority but administered regionally through democratically elected bodies. Every child will be subjected to compulsory education for nine years, generally from the age of six to 15.

The proposals represent government thinking but are still subject to negotiation with other political groupings. But Mr Marais insisted that taking race out of education need not wait for the political process to develop. He announced that from now on it would not be possible for the government to fund schools which admitted pupils on racial grounds. No school that received government money would be able to exclude a pupil for any reason other than academic.

The difference in the quality of black and white education has long been one of the bitterly resented products of apartheid, stemming from the policy of Hendrik Verwoerd, the architect of apartheid, who explained in the senate debate on his Bantu Education Act of 1954 that school "must equip the Bantu to meet the demands which the economic

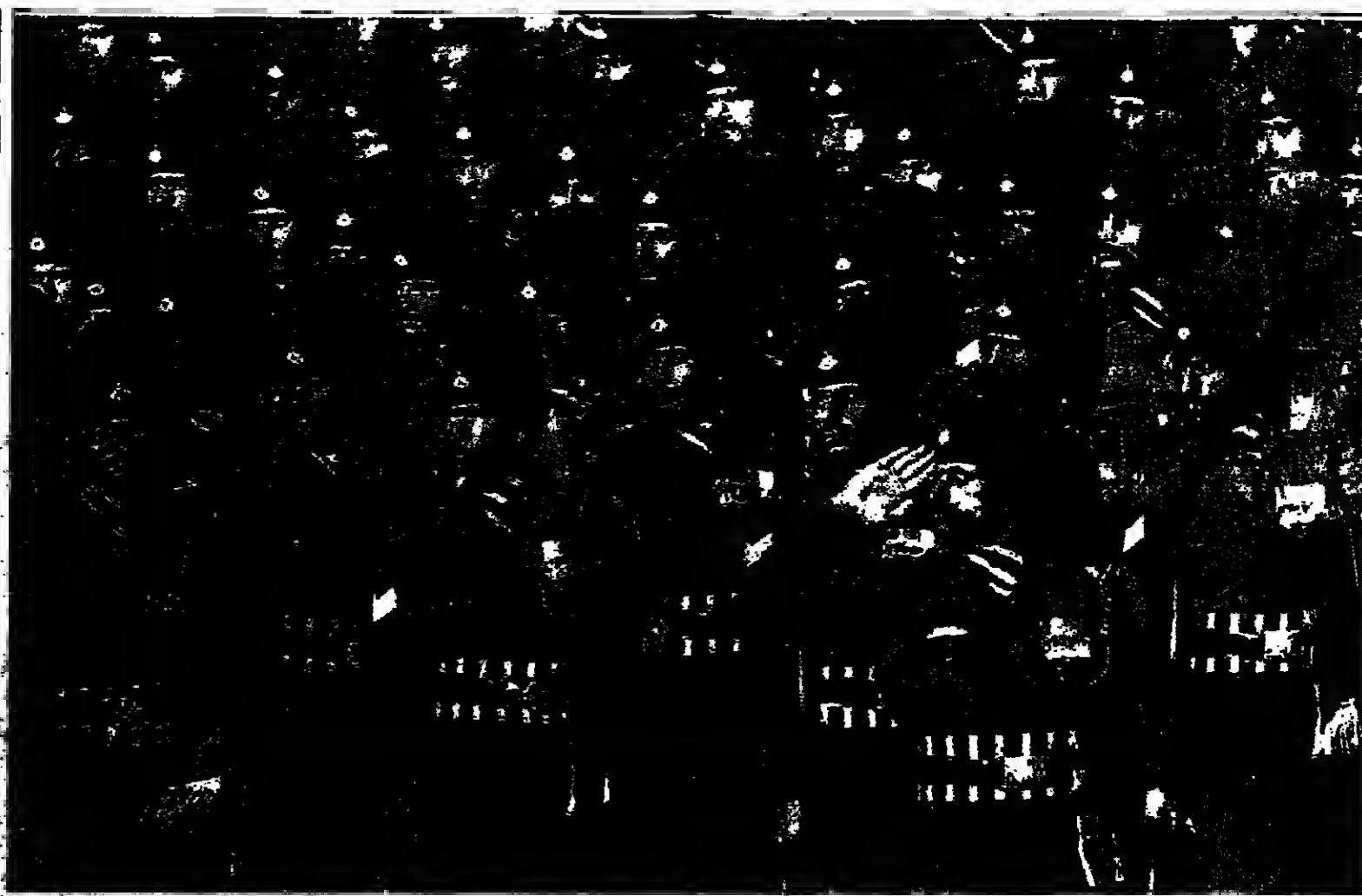
life of South Africa will impose on him", and asked: "What is the use of teaching a Bantu child mathematics when it cannot use it in practice?"

In the next ten years spending on black education dropped (in real terms) from 8.7 rands (about £2) a child to 4.9 rands, while spending on each white child rose from 50 rands to 75 rands. At the same time, the kind of university education that had equipped generations of black political leaders, such as Nelson Mandela, Mangosuthu Buthe and Robert Mugabe, was closed to the next generations.

Now, Mr Marais declared, the government intended to eliminate inequalities in spending. Given the pressures on government expenditure this was unlikely to be achieved in fewer than ten years, he said, giving a target date of 2003.

Nor will it be possible, a government booklet on the new policy says, for the present levels of education for whites to be taken as the national norm for the future. It would cost too much. Accordingly, schools wanting to maintain these levels or improve on them will have to find their own funds. The possibility then is of segregation continuing but on economic rather than racial grounds.

The new policy has been welcomed by white liberals in the Democratic party who insist that the government has finally come round to its way of thinking. It was instantly condemned by white hardliners of the Conservative party who said that it was wholly opposed to the idea of a unitary system of education.



Trooping the colour: a regiment of the Indian armed forces marching past the grandstand from where John Major watched the spectacular parade to mark India's Republic Day in Delhi yesterday. The prime minister was the chief guest at the country's 43rd independence celebrations (Philip Webster writes).

President Sharma took the salute as soldiers, Gurkhas included, marched along the Raj Path boulevard from the presidential palace to India Gate, a memorial to the nation's war dead. A powerful array of tanks, rocket launchers and anti-aircraft guns was followed by a magnificent display of floats depicting aspects of

cultural and industrial life. The arrival of a tableau representing India's coal industry, the prime source of energy, would have reminded Mr Major that he has tricky issues to resolve on his return home tomorrow. It showed a miner emerging from a coal field and illustrated the work of Coal India. A huge black

diamond symbolises the value to India's economy of this profit-making industry. The 90-minute parade passed off without incident despite reported threats from terrorist groups. In Kashmir, where Muslim militants have been fighting Indian rule, widespread protests marked the anniversary.

Tokyo deftly puts lid on something that stinks

FROM JOANNA PITMAN IN TOKYO

RULING parties embroiled in political scandals and wishing to take evasive action may find it instructive to study the Japanese Liberal Democrats' successful application of their "how to bury a scandal" formula.

At last week's opening of the new year session of the Diet, Kichi Miyazawa, the prime minister, hailed the beginning of a new era in the international environment and a change in popular values at home, which "demand changes in

Japan's entire socio-economic system created since the war. It is politics that must take the lead in this effort."

Grand plans for sweeping political reform and homilies about the popular mistrust of Japan's political system left scant time for mention of the Sagawa Kyubin scandal, a £2 billion corruption and gangster-related fiasco, which has dragged senior members of the Liberal Democratic Party into its depths, and deepened opposition parties as well. Yet, now entering its 38th year, of uninterrupted power, the LDP has survived political cor-

ruption scandals since the war and remains as solidly entrenched as ever, and the ship of state seems to sail calmly on, in testimony to Japan's favour. The proverb: "Anything can be forgotten within 75 days."

The Sagawa scandal, which by all estimates is financially the biggest, looks as if it will be no exception. For the apparent zeal of the public prosecutors and the finger of the press and the people have proven to be both temporary and selective. Casualties have been few. Shin Kanemaru, a former party boss, resigned in October, but his deputy 79 he was

generally considered to have been well into the final stretch of his career.

A vicious power struggle erupted after his departure, but damage has been limited to the creation of a new faction. The scandal and the power struggle occurring in the midst of Japan's most serious economic downturn since the 1973 oil shock have taken their toll on the popularity of Mr Miyazawa (his ratings fell to 12 per cent in December, and have since recovered to 20 per cent), but the prime minister now has reason to sound optimistic.

For the next five months, the nation will be slaking its thirst for gossip with talk of the wedding of Crown Prince Naruhito, scheduled for June. In July, the Group of Seven summit will provide the LDP with a truce on scandal-mongering while foreign statesmen are visiting.

Then there is the LDP presidential election in September. If his run of luck continues and if he takes heed of Japan's second favourite proverb ("put a lid on something that stinks"), Mr Miyazawa may well be anointed for a second term.

Australia honours slighted Aboriginal

FROM ROBERT COCKBURN IN SYDNEY

AN Aboriginal musician who was refused service in a Melbourne bar last year on racial grounds was yesterday made Australian of the Year.

Mandawuy Yunupingu is leader and singer of Yothu Yindi, a band that mixes rock and traditional tribal music. In a country still largely hostile to Aborigines, recognition at home comes after the band has achieved international renown and commercial success, helped by a performance at the 1990 Edinburgh festival.

Paul Keating, the prime minister, presented the award as part of the Australia Day honours at Government House. While most Australians were celebrating their nation's official founding in 1788, Aborigines and their supporters mourned the date as heralding the destruction of their way of life.

"The message from me to non-Aboriginal people is to shift attitudes from the old way of thinking," Mr Yunupingu said. "This year is going to open a lot of avenues. It's going to open a lot of eyes for realising we can build Australia together if the opportunity is given."

Mr Yunupingu was the first Aboriginal from the Northern Territory to obtain a university degree and was the first Aboriginal headmaster before becoming a musician.

Despite a promise in 1988 by Bob Hawke, then prime minister, of a treaty recognising Aborigines' sovereign rights, their plight is little improved. They remain outsiders in their own land, and United Nations observers say many live at Third World levels of poverty and deprivation.

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0.75%	World Savers‡ (for Children)	1.00%	1.00%
0.38%	7 Day Notice Deposit Account‡	0.50%	0.50%
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America is warned of \$650bn budget deficit in a decade

WITHOUT big new tax increases and deep spending cuts America's budget deficit could more than double within a decade to \$650 billion (\$419 billion), the director of the US Congressional Budget Office said yesterday.

Unless there was decisive action, the \$4,000 billion national debt would increase by another \$1,100 billion in the course of the Clinton administration. "The borrowing binge must stop," Robert Reischauer told senators in a sobering assessment of the state of the American economy.

The stark warning from an impartial and highly regarded source came as President Clinton struggled to complete a comprehensive economic plan that will simultaneously seek to tackle the deficit while not killing off America's fragile economic recovery. On the one hand, Dr Reischauer's evidence underscored the huge difficulties Mr Clinton faces. On the other, it gave the new president some extra cover for the unpopular decisions he will have to make.

During the election campaign, Mr Clinton offered not only painless remedies for cutting the deficit but also middle-class tax cuts. In recent days, markedly changing his tune, he has spoken repeatedly of the need for personal sacrifices to rebuild America, declaring in his inaugural speech last week that "something for nothing" days of the Republican era were gone.

Mr Clinton regards reduction of the deficit as an essential pre-condition for America's long-term economic recovery, but Dr Reischauer said it would only come down when elected officials and the public conclude that the borrowing binge must stop.

The American people "must be willing to pay higher taxes and receive fewer government benefits in the 1990s for the sake of higher living standards in the next century," Dr Reischauer cautioned against

America is being told to end its borrowing binge. Martin Fletcher writes from Washington



Sasser criticised high interest rate

the age-old temptation of banking on economic growth to solve the problem. The economy was beginning to grow again, but too slowly to cut much more difference. Growth alone "won't slay the deficit dragon".

He also dampened Democratic hopes that Mr Clinton's proposed health care reform would make much difference. Soaring health costs are the principle cause of the ever-increasing deficit, but Dr Reischauer said he believed savings achieved by the reforms would be swallowed by the costs of fulfilling Mr Clinton's pledge to provide universal health insurance. About 37 million Americans now have no cover.

The budget office forecast a \$310 billion deficit for the present fiscal year, which was \$17 billion less than the final Bush administration forecast. However, from a floor of \$291 billion next year, it would steadily rise, reaching \$319 billion in 1997, which was

\$14 billion more than the Bush projection. Mr Clinton has already abandoned his campaign pledge to halve the deficit during his first term, citing greater than expected deficit forecasts as his excuse. However, he remains committed to cutting it by \$145 billion by 1997.

He has also retreated from his promise of a middle-class tax cut, and is considering a range of new taxes on the rich, on corporations, energy, alcohol and tobacco. He is considering cuts in previously sacrosanct medical and social security entitlements. Defence spending may also have to be cut deeper than originally planned.

James Sasser, the Democratic budget committee chairman, who released Dr Reischauer's testimony, said the report showed the country was producing too few jobs. It projected an average jobless rate of 7.1 per cent this year, dropping to 6.6 per cent next year. Dr Reischauer said the jobless decline would occur even without further fiscal or monetary stimulus. He said the real key to more jobs and a higher standard of living was a higher national savings rate, which requires cutting the deficit so there is more to save.

Mr Sasser criticised the Federal Reserve for failing to drive down interest rates fast enough. He said that deficit-cutting efforts President Clinton is planning must be accompanied by "the active cooperation of the Federal Reserve" to lower interest rates. "It is critical that we get assurances from the Federal Reserve Board that the White House and Congress will not be left dangling and twisting in the wind," he said. Mr Sasser's criticism was apparently an effort to pressure the Fed to continue with rate cuts rather than working against any economic growth package the administration might propose by boosting interest rates.

Yesterday, Robert Reich, the labour secretary, said that the Clinton administration was likely to propose \$15 billion to \$20 billion in new spending and tax breaks "to send a very clear signal" that the new president is serious about reviving the economy. He conceded in an interview on ABC's *Good Morning America* that, in relation to a \$6,000 billion economy, such an amount would be small, but he said "it does send a clear signal that we have to get the growth back, we have to get the economy back on track".

In answer to critics who worry that a Democratic Congress and a Democratic president will inflate already huge budget deficits, Mr Reich said the short-term growth package had to be linked to a long-term effort to reduce deficits once the economy is stronger.

Mr Reich's comments were the clearest signal yet that Mr Clinton has decided to go ahead with some sort of jobs package, even though it will inflate this year's expected record deficit of \$327 billion. □ Envoys named: President Clinton has selected Thomas Pickering, an ambassador to the United Nations during the Bush administration, to be ambassador to Russia, the White House announced last night. Mr Pickering is a career diplomat who also served as ambassador to India and Jordan. (AP)

Homosexual ban, page 1



Seat of power: Hillary and President Clinton attending a White House meeting of health care advisers after she was named head of the task force

Quayle joins Socks in search of literary fame and fortune

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

FORSAKING the political sword for the mightier pen, ranks of departing Republicans are eagerly turning to the lucrative world of literature.

Yesterday it was announced that former Vice-President Dan Quayle had sold his memoirs to HarperCollins, the New York publishers, for a seven-figure sum. Mr Quayle has never written a book before, but is believed to have read several, and his first foray into authorship was described as "very personal" by his new publishers.

The, as yet, untitled memoir may serve as a campaign manifesto if, as widely predicted, he decides to run for president in 1996.

Last week Barbara Bush, wife of President Bush, and best-selling ghost-writer of books by two White House dogs (C. Fred and Millie), sold her autobiography to Macmillan publishers for a reported \$2.2 million (£1.4 million).

Mr Bush is reported to be considering writing a series of newspaper articles as well as another memoir, although sources in the publishing industry doubt he will be able to command the \$5 million advance Ronald Reagan collected for a multibook deal with Simon & Schuster.

Marlin Fitzwater, former White House press secretary

to Mr Bush and Mr Reagan, is currently offering his memoirs to publishers, promising to "look at the two presidents from the vantage point of the pressroom, the podium and eight Soviet summits", one publishing source reported.

James Baker, the former Secretary of State, is planning a book which will focus on his diplomatic experiences and his role in shaping the post-Cold war world. Other outgoing officials planning a future between hard covers include the former national security adviser, Brent Scowcroft, and budget director, Richard Darman.

During the election, millions of books were sold by or

about the three candidates. Just before Christmas, Warner Books had to print an extra 100,000 copies of a coffee-table picture book, *Clinton: Portrait of Victory*, and even Al Gore's somewhat indigestible treatise on the environment has spent nearly half a year on the best-seller list.

Both Roger Clinton, the president's sometimes errant younger brother, and Virginia Kelley, their mother, are believed to be negotiating book deals (the latter may be particularly racy), while Zebra books has already announced the publication of a cartoon book about Socks, the Clintons' cat. Two biographies of Hillary Clinton, the First Lady, are expected this year, and even though she has been in office for only a few days, Carole Moseley Braun, the first black woman senator, is hard at work on a biography commissioned last spring.

But the pick of the crop of new books from the Democratic side may be the joint memoirs of James Carville, President Clinton's chief campaign strategist, and Mary Matalin, President Bush's deputy campaign manager. These two, from either side of the political divide, happen to be lovers.



Quayle: a seven-figure sum for his first book

Clinton provokes 'Billary' attack from Reaganites

■ Hillary Clinton is back in form. But who will tell the president if she makes a mistake?

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton's appointment of his wife to the most powerful post ever created for an American First Lady was greeted with mixed reviews yesterday.

Former Bush and Reagan supporters expressed apprehension over who will dare tell the president if his wife makes a mistake, but many more voices said it was hard to imagine Mr Clinton sending a stronger signal of his commitment to shaking up American health care than his putting Hillary Rodham Clinton at the head of the president's task force on national health reform. Mr Clinton said "she's better at organising and leading people from a complex beginning to a certain end than anybody I've ever worked with in my life". The nation, he added, would soon find that "we have a First Lady of many talents".

The appointment came as no surprise in Arkansas where, during Mr Clinton's terms as governor, Mrs Clinton led committees on health and education. Indeed, Bill and Hillary Clinton worked together so seamlessly as a political unit that they became popularly known in Little Rock as Billary. Meredith Oakley, an Arkansas columnist, said: "She's very bright and articulate and she does her homework. People were impressed."

During the early presidential primaries, Mr Clinton boasted of his wife's accomplishments and told voters they would be getting two for the price of one. Later Mrs Clinton's campaign role was diminished when her liberal views and strident feminism began to grate on voters, particularly her disparaging comment about women who stayed home to make cookies and give tea.

Now, with the White House secured, she is back in full cry, even to the point of reviving her maiden name of Rodham and making it clear that her name is Hillary Rodham Clinton, the way she was listed at

her law firm, on corporate boards and how she was introduced to the nation at last week's swearing-in ceremony for her husband.

Among Democrats who welcomed Mrs Clinton's new job was Senator Jay Rockefeller, who said: "I am delighted. Hillary will be the ferocious advocate of health care that America needs. Her appointment signals the administration understands the urgency for fast action." One who spoke against was Sheila Tate, former press secretary to Nancy Reagan, who said: "They'll be sorry. Who is to tell Clinton if his wife's doing a lousy job? What's to prevent her from abuse of power?"

Another conservative analyst, Burton Pines, issued a warning that up to now the American public has never looked favourably on presidents' wives who get involved in policy. The best loved were Truman's wife Bess and Barbara Bush who were not threatening to other women. By contrast, Eleanor Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Rosalynn Carter and Nancy Reagan had somehow succeeded in antagonising people by their activities.

Mrs Clinton will not receive any salary for bringing a new authority to the role of First Lady. A law passed after President Kennedy named his brother Robert as attorney-general forbids a president's relatives from holding paid jobs in the executive branch of the government.

Still, first ladies have come far since Martha Washington, the wife of the first president, who declared she was content to be "a quiet wife, a quiet soul". For all her prominence, Mrs Clinton will not equal the power of Edith Wilson, the wife of President Woodrow Wilson, after he suffered a paralytic stroke in 1919. Unknown to the public, she took over many of his duties and, because, in fact, acting president.

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Leading article, page 15

Judge contests US death penalty ruling

BY IAN BRODIE

TO THE dismay of death penalty opponents, the US Supreme Court has ruled that new evidence of innocence is not necessarily sufficient reason to halt an execution. But in a heated dissent, Justice Harry Blackmun said: "Execution of a person who can show that he is innocent comes perilously close to simple murder."

The court's 6-3 vote was denounced yesterday by USA Today as appalling. It moved Justice Blackmun to say: "It violates any standard of decency to execute someone who is actually innocent."

The decision will enable Texas to execute Leonel Herrera who was sentenced to death by lethal injection for the murder of a policeman in 1981. Ten years later after all appeals had been exhausted,

Herrera presented evidence that his brother Raul, who had died in 1984, had committed the crime. Raul's son said he saw his father pull the trigger. Chief Justice William Rehnquist asserted that judges were not empowered to second-guess a jury's verdict, even if a mistake could lead to an innocent person suffering capital punishment. Only in a "truly extraordinary" case, where new evidence showed conclusively that a convicted prisoner was indeed innocent, could a federal judge block an execution, the Supreme Court majority said.

The Herrera case, with its affidavits filed 10 years after the crime, was not sufficiently convincing. The only recourse for such prisoners was to plead to the governor of their state for clemency, the court said.



Political stage: Barbra Streisand, 50, who performed at an inaugural ball for President Clinton last week, is said to be contemplating whether to run for the US Senate (Ben Macintyre writes). The Brooklyn-born actress and singer, famed for her political activism, is considering challenging Senator Patrick Moynihan in New York, the New York Post reported yesterday, quoting a "high-placed Democratic source". Ms Streisand neither confirmed nor denied the story.

Rabin accuses Boutros Ghali of double standards over deportation pressure

FROM RICHARD BRESTON IN JERUSALEM AND JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

YITZHAK Rabin, the Israeli prime minister, yesterday reacted with anger to United Nations warnings that Israel could be forced to repatriate hundreds of deported Palestinians stranded in Lebanon.

After a meeting of the Knesset defence and foreign affairs committee, Mr Rabin accused the UN of applying "double standards" in its treatment of Israel, after Boutros Ghali, the secretary-general, recommended in a report that the country be compelled to take back 396 banished Palestinians. "It is a request almost without precedent from the security council," said Mr Rabin, who also serves as defence minister.

"The report is an example of double standards, completely ignoring terrorism and singling out only the steps taken against it."

"From one side they request Israel to continue with the peace negotiations, despite the rise in terror, and on the other hand they represent the re-

quired removal of the most extremist sources of terror as an obstruction to peace," he said, referring to Israeli allegations that the deportees are members of the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement.

Dr Boutros Ghali made his recommendations at the UN late on Monday after more than a month of failed mediation efforts by special envoys. In his report, he said the security council should take "all necessary steps" to force Israel to comply with resolution 799, which demands the immediate return of the deportees under the terms of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

Dr Boutros Ghali said: "There is a growing perception throughout the international community that the council, by not pressing for Israeli compliance with the resolution, of which resolution 799 is only the latest, does not attach equal importance to the implementation of all its decisions." He was referring to Arab allegations that the West

is prepared to use force against Iraq but not Israel.

The secretary-general further angered Israelis by suggesting that some form of UN monitoring be established in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip to assure the 1.8 million Palestinians "that the international community is not neglecting their need for safety and protection".

The report was welcomed by Palestinian leaders, who have threatened not to attend next month's round of Middle East peace talks in Washington unless the deportees are returned. "We have been asking a long time for international protection," said Dr Haidar Abdel-Shafi, the head of the Palestinian delegation. "It is high time that the UN asserted its authority as the organisation responsible for keeping the peace." The news was also well received by the deportees encamped at Marj az-Zuhur. The latest development is likely to present the new US administration with another

foreign policy headache in the Middle East. American diplomats say it is virtually unthinkable that the Clinton administration could support sanctions against Israel within days of taking office. They fear Washington could be forced to veto a security council resolution calling for tough action over the deportees, thus damaging relations with other UN members and further weakening the anti-Iraq coalition.

The dilemma was spelt out by the American ambassador to Israel, William Harrop, who told Israel's army radio: "I think it's most unlikely that the United States would want to see sanctions against Israel. But we have not used our veto for two years, we do not want to do that either."

Privately, many Israeli, Arab, and Western officials hope that the affair can be cleared up this week when Israel's supreme court is expected to give its final ruling on the deportations and could well reverse the expulsion order.

Antiquities diplomacy riles right-winger

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

THE controversy over Egyptian antiquities held abroad has been revived by the surprise agreement of Israel to return thousands of treasures recovered during its occupation of Sinai from 1967 to 1982.

The deal, which will see the relics handed back over a two-year period, has been attacked by Eliahu Ben Elissar, a former Israeli ambassador to Cairo and a member of the right-wing Likud opposition. He said that Israel had adopted a course that many other countries had rejected. "Even if the archaeological finds are Egyptian national property, all the museums of the world are full of Egyptian antiquities," Mr Ben Elissar said.

He argued that Israel should have kept the finds because it had developed the sites, and declared that he would campaign for Egypt to give back to Israel dozens of Torah scrolls, the manuscript of the five books of Moses.

which are in synagogues in Cairo and the port city of Alexandria.

Sinai, returned to Israel under the 1979 peace treaty, is traditionally held to be the place where Moses received the Ten Commandments. Israel's agreement to return the treasures follows a long period of cold relations between the two countries.

"As long as the archaeological finds from Sinai are in our hands, we can do more than a little to save what there is in Egypt," Mr Ben Elissar told Israel radio. "I propose that we exploit this opportunity."

The Likud MP said he was interested in a ninth-century Jewish bible known as the Tenach Ben Asher, now in a Cairo synagogue. The Jewish community in Egypt wanted the Torah scrolls sent to Israel, he said. As a gesture of goodwill, Israel last week gave back to Egypt 16 battered Arabic

manuscripts dating back to the 12th century. The first consignment of antiquities from various locations in Israel is due here in March.

During the Israeli occupation, 59 sites were excavated in a way many Israelis have argued was more imaginative



and professional than that displayed previously by the Egyptians. Ibrahim Bakr, head of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation, told a parliamentary committee in Cairo that Israel had been looking for proof to support its presumed historic pres-

ence in Sinai, but had found only pharaonic, Islamic and Coptic antiquities.

Among the artefacts which will be put on display in a new \$3 million museum to be constructed in the Sinai resort of El Arish will be pottery, household implements, documents, *mashrabias* (wooden lattice shutters) and a boat of the Mamluke era between 1170 and 1250, recovered from the Gulf of Aqaba.

Mr Bakr, who reached the agreement with Shulamit Aloni, the Israeli education and culture minister, said that the main sticking point had been over what to do with a valuable collection of Sinai antiquities once held by Moshe Dayan, the late Israeli war hero and defence minister. Mr Bakr said that the Israeli government had eventually solved the problem by buying the antiquities.

America prepares to open Pandora's box at the UN



Christopher: ideas for reform have met with a cool response from Britain, which fears loss of influence

FROM JAMES BONE
IN NEW YORK AND
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

IN CALLING for reform of the United Nations Security Council, Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, is opening a Pandora's box.

Not only Germany and Japan, but a number of developing countries claim that they deserve a place at the top table of international diplomacy alongside the five permanent members of the council — Britain, China, France, Russia, and the United States.

Even though the "Permanent Five" have seldom exercised their veto power, their privileged position, which they obtained as victors of the second world war, is seen by many as an anachronism. Christopher has said that the 15 members of the council are "out of date".

Britain is on course for a clash with President Clinton over the American plans for expansion. John Major responded coolly to Mr Christopher's remarks. The prime

■ The privileged security council position of second world war victors is under fire. However any reform will be a daunting task

minister said in Delhi that he would not want to do anything that made the UN "less effective" and said there had been no discussion at all about the proposal, floated by Mr Clinton during his presidential campaign, within the security council.

Britain is worried that an increase in the number of permanent members of the security council would at best weaken the country's world influence and at worst result in it losing its place on the security council. A senior British official said last night: "If you open it up to Germany and Japan there are bound to be some who will say that — if the UK, France and Germany are there — that there should be a single seat for the European Community."

Although undermined by a reluctance to contribute to United Nations peacekeeping forces, Germany's campaign to win a permanent seat on the security council will be

vigorously pursued by Bonn this year. Klaus Kinkel, the foreign minister, last week reiterated his country's interest, saying Bonn would register its claim to be represented in any enlarged council. Germany was ready to take on a new world role if another permanent seat could be secured for Europe.

Since German unification, the country's campaign for a more important voice in New York has grown. Germany is the richest, most populous and economically most influential country in Western Europe. It is the third largest contributor to UN costs, after America and Japan. It is increasingly being asked to play a political role commensurate with its economic importance. But Bonn is held back from a more forceful demand by fear of appearing too assertive on the world stage, and political deadlock at home over the use of German troops abroad.



As the leading contributor to the coffers of the UN after the United States, Japan firmly believes that it deserves recognition in the form of a permanent seat on the security council. While Westerners tend to view the UN as a weakened and humiliated institution that fails more often than it succeeds in the resolution of conflicts, the Japanese look up to the UN as the ultimate arbiter in all world affairs, positioned way up in the firmament of power. A seat on the security council

would, they believe, instantly award Japan the credibility in international political affairs that it hankers after, but with the burden of responsibility in policy-making, implementation and strategy crucially diluted among all the member states. Japan's craving for an internationally recognised foreign policy appears to be partly a response to criticism that Japan, as one of the world's richest economies, is not pulling its weight to help solve international disputes.

Japan's dilemma is that it does not base its foreign policy on democracy and human rights. Ever since the end of the second world war, Japan has openly adopted a foreign policy driven almost exclusively by economic interests. Its success is evident. But it has also now begun to backfire. Economic frictions with trading partners have political repercussions, and resentment has contributed to some of the rhetoric over Japan's perceived apathy in international affairs, above all at the time of the Gulf war.

Constrained by its pacifist constitution, drawn up by the

United States in 1947, Japan was unable to send troops to the Gulf but belatedly sent \$11 billion (£7 billion) to aid the anti-Iraq effort. Believing its contribution was not recognised, Japan then conducted an agonising debate over its role in international affairs, and as a result last year dispatched troops abroad for the first time since the war to participate in peacekeeping operations in Cambodia. However, their role is severely circumscribed by the constitution and they are only allowed to take part in non-military activities such as road repair.

Japan feels it is being unfairly maligned as a non-contributor by Western powers, countries that also happen to be its leading trading partners and which Japan, as an export-driven economy, ignores at its peril.

Tokyo now recognises that signing cheques to pay for other nations' soldiers to risk death in the field is not considered sufficient. To minimise further frictions, Japan is now seeking a role in world affairs by gaining a permanent seat on the security council.

Test for security council

Serb leaders applaud Croatia reprimand

FROM TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

SERBIAN politicians in Belgrade were yesterday hailing as a diplomatic triumph Monday's United Nations resolution condemning Croatia's offensive in Krajina and calling on it to withdraw from land seized over the past few days. But as Serbs in Croatia continued to demand Yugoslav military intervention, the UN was on trial in Serbia.

At stake is the UN's ability to force the Croats to withdraw from what it recognises as Croatian territory. The UN long ago lost its authority in Croatia after failing to force Serbs to "freeze" their commitments to retreat from the buffer zone into which Croat forces have stormed.

In Zagreb, President Tudjman of Croatia responded to the UN demand to withdraw by saying that his troops would retreat only if they were replaced by Croatian police and if Serbs behind the new frontline were disarmed and returned their heavy weaponry to UN control.

As clashes continued yesterday in southern Croatia, the UN reported that Serb reinforcements for the self-proclaimed republic of Serbian Krajina were moving to the frontlines. In other parts of the Serb-held UN "peacekeeping

zones in Croatia the situation was reported tense after Krajina Serbs had mobilised and plundered UN stores to retrieve their heavy weaponry. Under the terms of the peace plan for Krajina devised by Cyrus Vance, the UN envoy, heavy weaponry was handed joint UN and Serb control but as Croatian forces crossed the ceasefire line last week UN guards were powerless to stop the Serbs taking their arms back in.

Mr Vance said that the Krajina leader, who had been the UN's special representative, had said that he would "bear all the responsibility". But, despite their satisfaction with the UN resolution on Krajina, it was clear that the Serbs in Belgrade were desperately hoping that the UN would be able to force the Croats back, because they do not want a new war.

However, the chances of the status quo ante are regarded by all sides as nil. Momcilo Bogunovic, a Serb commander from Benkovac, close to the frontline, summed up militant local feeling: "The people of Krajina would have been dead if they had listened to UN chiefs. The UN kept assuring us that Croatian heavy long-range artillery was

being brought to our borders for some kind of military exercise. Now, the blue helmets are struggling. Such was the worth of their guarantees that Krajina would not be attacked."

The Krajina Serbs are demanding Yugoslav military intervention on the grounds that under the Vance plan the Yugoslav army promised to support them if attacked. However, despite being placed on alert and belated military statements, the prospect of becoming embroiled again in Krajina is a nightmare for Yugoslav leaders.

Yugoslav air force jets could be scrambled to launch raids on Croatian targets but even this is unlikely to be done unless the situation in Krajina worsens dramatically.

In terms of arms, the Krajina Serbs are relatively well equipped with what was supplied to them by the Yugoslav army. However, they are weak in manpower. According to some estimates they have as few as 20,000 men under arms, a force which, if fighting continues, must face a fully mobilised Croatian army of more than 200,000.

Offensive condemned: Moscow and Bonn yesterday appeared unanimous in their condemnation of the latest offensive by Croatian forces in Krajina. Germany, an early and influential champion of Croatian independence and recognition, has been sharply critical of the armed action, which the government fears will weaken international pressure on Serbia.

Klaus Kinkel, the German foreign minister, said the attacks were a step backwards, and Helmut Kohl, the chancellor, supported the condemnation. Russia sent Vitali Chirkin, its deputy foreign minister to Croatia where he is expected to lodge a strong protest, with President Tudjman, particularly over an attack on two Russian officers in the UN force, who were seriously injured.

French withdrawal, page 1



Widow's grief: a Bosnian woman mourns at a cemetery in Sarajevo over the snow-covered grave of her husband, who was killed last weekend. Milder weather brought renewed shelling to the besieged capital but winter weather returned this week, bringing another lull in the fighting. Minor shelling hit

nearby Vogošća and the north Bosnian towns Gradacac and Brčko, along a Serb-held corridor between Serbia and Croatia which Muslim forces are trying to intersect with daily attacks. In a separate development the federal Yugoslav army admitted yesterday for the first time in eight

months that it is supporting Bosnian Serbs in their war against the Muslim-dominated Bosnian government forces. The statement by General Nikola Mandarić, published in the official Belgrade daily *Politika*, came as the Geneva peace conference on Bosnia-Herzegovina entered a critical stage of working

out details of a peace plan that all parties, including the Serbs, have approved. The general told *Politika* that his First Army troops were "helping" Bosnian Serbs in the valley of the Drina river — the natural border between Bosnia and the Serbian part of the Yugoslav federation. (Reuters)



Weapons pour in for Zagreb

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

A FULL-SCALE war between Croatia and Serbia would cast the Croatian armed forces in the role of underdog. But secret shipments of weapons and ammunition from East European countries to the Croats are beginning to change the military balance.

The Croatian and Serbian armies each have a force of about 100,000 men, but in terms of equipment, the Croats have only limited armour and firepower to take on the might of the Serbs.

The Croats have 200 old-generation Soviet-made tanks and 150 artillery pieces, compared with Serbia's 1,000 tanks, including Soviet T74s and T72s, and 1,364 artillery pieces. Serbia also has 480 combat aircraft and 136 helicopters. Officially, Croatia has no combat aircraft but one MIG21 is known to have been acquired and attempts have been made to buy more jets. One report claimed that

Croatia had received 10 MIG21s in July last year.

Since September 1991 when the United Nations Security Council imposed an arms embargo on the former Yugoslavia, the Zagreb government has received large shipments of weapons and ammunition, much allegedly emanating from private deals with former East German officials. Arms dealers from former Soviet bloc nations, awash with unwanted arms since the Cold war, have also been engaged in clandestine shipments to Croatia.

In the most recent case, a ship carrying surface-to-surface missiles and anti-tank shells, was stopped by Nato warships in the Adriatic earlier this month. The arms were bound for the Croats. Last year, the chief of staff of the Croatian air force said that since the European Community recognised Croatia last January, it had become much

easier for his government to buy arms from Europe.

There are new reports that Croatia has acquired a number of light aircraft with a range of more than 300 miles which have been coated in a special radar-evading paint. Croatian planes are known to have taken part in the latest offensive against the Serbs.

The arms smuggling appears to have involved a network of countries, including, allegedly, Germany, Belgium, Austria, Hungary, the former Czechoslovakia and Switzerland. While their governments have denied any knowledge of such shipments, black market deals have resulted in weapons systems reaching the war zones in the former Yugoslavia.

In Geneva, yesterday Lord Owen, the EC mediator, issued a warning against lifting the UN arms embargo on former Yugoslavia. He said it could unleash wider violence.

Bomb scare delays Czech vote

Prague: The Czech parliament was evacuated yesterday after an anonymous caller said that a bomb had been placed in the building as deputies prepared to elect the Czech republic's first president.

Earlier, deputies had walked out in protest against a scathing attack on Václav Havel, the playwright-turned-politician who is expected to win the poll. (Reuters)

Marine killed
Mogadishu: A US Marine was shot dead on night patrol while eight Somalis died and 40 were wounded when Belgian troops, backed by helicopter gunships, attacked a militia near Kismayu. (AP)

Coup trial
Moscow: The trial of 12 communist hardliners on charges arising out of the failed August 1991 coup will begin in April with Mikhail Gorbachev among 120 witnesses. (AFP)

Fraud charge
Rome: A Milan prosecutor has recommended that Giorgio Strehler, Italy's best-known theatre director, be tried for alleged fraud and misappropriation of £23,000 in EC training funds.

Inflation fears rise as rouble plummets

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN IN MOSCOW

HYPERINFLATION in Russia came a step closer yesterday as the rouble fell 13 per cent to its lowest value against the dollar.

The American currency surged through the psychologically important 500-rouble mark, moving the exchange rate from 493 to 568 to the dollar. At the beginning of the year, the level was 417, while three years ago even the black-market rate was only ten roubles to the dollar.

The fall came in the first of the twice-weekly currency trading sessions on Moscow's Interbank exchange, taking traders by surprise. By nightfall, it had not filtered through to Moscow's technically illegal free-market traders, where the fall is likely to be even steeper.

Vasily Barshuk, the Russian finance minister, told parliament yesterday that the budget deficit would reach 3,500 billion roubles in 1993, which he blamed on Russia's assumption of most of the Soviet Union's obligations.

André Nekhayev, the economic minister, said that a "moderately tough credit policy" could bring down inflation and stabilise production decline, but his words were met with considerable scepticism.

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Can there still be a long-term relationship between the Church of England and the state?

What God has joined together

THE establishment of the Church of England is an anomaly, but one that is rooted in British history. The question is whether it is a valuable anomaly or whether it has become an anachronism which does not suit the needs of church or state.

The Anglican communion is worldwide, with significant membership in all countries which were ever part of the British Empire, including the United States. The Church of England is the mother church, but has no authority over the other Anglican churches, and is the only one to remain linked to the state. The Church of England is

itself quite small, claiming only 1.6 million members in England. A much larger number, however, regard themselves as loosely attached to it and use its services at least for weddings and funerals.

Most other churches in the world have moved away from connection with their local states. Protestant churches tend to regard establishment as risking contamination by state power. The Orthodox churches were undoubtedly contaminated by the influence of the Soviet Union and the communist regimes of Eastern Europe. The Roman Catholic Church, in

the second Vatican Council, accepted as the norm for the modern world what might be called the American solution of "ideologically neutral state, by which all religious communities, so long as they do not conflict with the secular goals of the state and society, are accorded basically the same rights". The general movement of churches is therefore one of withdrawing from legal links to the state.

This movement has already greatly enlarged the independence of the Church of England. Crown appointments, decided by the prime minister, now play a much

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

less important role in shaping the church. In the case of bishops the prime minister has only a choice between two nominated candidates. The creation of the Synod of the Church of England in 1970, with what are effectively delegated powers of legislation, made the Church of England largely a self-governing body. The Queen remains the "Supreme Governor of the Church of England", but very much as a constitutional monarch. In practice the influence of the

monarch on the church has declined in parallel with the influence of the prime minister.

The change in the status of the Church of England, and the change in the world, has undoubtedly therefore moved England towards disestablishment. This has probably been emphasised by the domestic troubles of the royal family. The chief difficulty of the Coronation Oath lies, however, in its reaffirmation of the principle of establishment, with its commitment "to maintain and preserve inviolably the Church of England, and the Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government thereof, as by law established in England".

The Prince of Wales could well swear to that, but would the Church of England itself then want him to? The fear of those who defend the present law is that disestablishment would damage the Church of England. They also fear it would undermine the Crown, by depriving it of a constitutional religious function, and desecrating the state, by removing the final traces of the religious connection. Most, but not all, Christians outside the Church of England fear a further victory for secularism. The pressure for dis-

establishment will not come from non-Anglican Christians.

The pressures come partly from the secular world, which sees establishment as a contradiction to secularism, and partly from the desire inside the Church of England for autonomy. Usually British constitutional change takes place very slowly, but so is reform of the House of Lords. There is probably at present more fear of the consequences than there is demand for the few further freedoms that disestablishment might offer.

Simon Jenkins, page 14

Rooted in the Reformation

The relationship between church and state permeates English history

By MATTHEW D'ANCONA

Anglicanism is the established faith in England: recognised by law as the official creed of the land, duly supported by civil authority and committed to a contractual relationship of rights and responsibilities with the state. The history of this bond is in many ways the history of England.

Though the position of the sovereign as head of the church was not formalised until the Reformation, the pre-eminence of the English monarchy in the ecclesiastical life of the nation had been firmly established when St Dunstan crowned King Edgar with great ceremony at Bath in 973 and reformed the Benedictine monasteries in the name of the Crown. By the 16th century, the notion of a distinctive ecclesiastical Anglicana supervised by semi-divine kings was familiar, easing the institutional split with Rome — and the satisfaction of Henry VIII's lust for Anne Boleyn.

The high season of the established church was the reign of Elizabeth I, who styled herself Defender of the Faith and Supreme Governor of the Church of England "unto whom the chief Government of all Estates of the Realm, whether they be Ecclesiastical or Civil in all causes doth appertain".

The relationship between Anglicanism and the state was never again so harmonious. The Stuart kings betrayed an alarming taste for the so-called "Erastian" belief that the church should be subservient to the temporal power. In 1598, the future James I declared: "Kings are called Gods... because they sit upon

GOD his Throne in the earth, and have the count of their administration to give unto Him".

Thus were sown the doctrinal seeds of civil war in the mid-17th century. In the settlement between William III and Parliament that followed the republican interlude, the Anglican faith lost its state-sanctioned monopoly. The 1689 Act of Toleration permitted non-conformist Protestantism and triggered a long, sometimes violent debate on church-state links.

But, by 1828, the church's role in political life had been seriously eroded, and a series of laws prejudicial to Catholics and non-Anglican Protestants were abolished shortly before the Reform Act of 1832.

The Anglo-Catholic Oxford Movement of the late 19th century was prompted by a fear of the government's meddling in appointments to the episcopacy. Since then, disestablishment has been an attractive option to the right wing of the church, as well as to liberals embarrassed by the declining popularity of Anglicanism in a multi-faith society.

Yet the established church and belief in the spiritual role of the monarchy have survived. A 1950s survey showed that many of the Queen's subjects believed she was descended from God; Princess Margaret was prevented from marrying a divorcé to preserve the sanctity of royal marriage; and the church's political pronouncements such as Archbishop Runcie's *Faith in the City* still have enough moral authority to infuriate governments. The roots of establishment may have been weakened, but they run deep.



Coronation makes the monarch head of the church. Now The Prince of Wales's marriage difficulties have brought the disestablishment issue to the fore

Is it time to change?

The argument over whether to make the break is likely to be fierce

By RUTH GLEDHILL

The decision last November by the General Synod to ordain women priests has added fuel to the disestablishment debate. It is likely to be raised when Parliament debates the issue of women priests later this year, as it must before the bill can receive Royal Assent and any woman can legally be ordained priest in England. Influential traditionalists who argue they have been excluded by a church which has turned itself into a sect could take up the case for disestablishment for the first time.

The Bishop of Durham, Dr David Jenkins, believes that disestablishment is inevitable. In an article in *The House Magazine*, he said that being an established church must seriously obstruct what the gospel is about in today's world. "Sooner or later, therefore, the establishment link between the Church of England and the state must go," he wrote.

The Labour MP Tony Benn is Parliament's most ardent supporter of disestablishment. He says it is inevitable by the end of the decade, and believes establishment "necessarily involves a subtle corruption of the spirit of the church".

Mr Benn has repeatedly published bills proposing changes in church-state relations. The most recent, his commonwealth of Britain bill last autumn, said that the responsibilities now exercised by Parliament and ministers for the Church of England should be transferred to the General Synod, the church's legislative body.

"No one is trying to expropriate church property," Mr Benn says. "The church would go away with its own property. But the church would pick its own leaders, decide its own policy and its own theology. I am not motivated by any hostility towards the church, but by a desire for the church to be free."

The only serving bishop to call openly for disestablishment so far has been the Right Rev Colin Buchanan, a suffragan in the Rochester diocese. The Right Rev Trevor Huddleston said, when Bishop of Stepney, that he found establishment "a perpetual hindrance

POWERS OF THE CHURCH AND STATE

- Prime minister John Major selects one of two nominees for the new bishop of a vacant see and submits it to the Queen
- The Queen is Supreme Governor of the Church of England
- The Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr George Carey, administers the sovereign's Coronation Oath
- Hector McLean is secretary to the Crown Appointments Commission, which considers diocesan vacancies
- Important changes to the church's procedures and practices must successfully pass through both houses of Parliament and receive Royal Assent. Parliament can accept or reject but not alter the legislation
- Sir Douglas Lovelock is First Church Estates Commissioner of the Church Commissioners managing £3 billion assets
- Tony MP Michael Alison is the Church of England's voice in the House of Commons
- Twenty-six bishops sit in the House of Lords. Anglican clergyman are not allowed to stand for Parliament because they already have representation through their bishops
- The General Synod is the legislative body of the Church of England. It has a house of clergy, a house of laity and a house of bishops

Before new church laws are debated in Parliament, they are examined by the Ecclesiastical Committee, made up of members of both houses. The committee can ask questions or refuse to approve new legislation. In the latter case, the General Synod can then bypass the committee and go straight to Parliament

to mission". A survey of 100 clergy in 1991 found 36 per cent in favour of disestablishment, 58 per cent against and 6 per cent with no view.

Lord Tebbit and Lord Parkinson, both former cabinet ministers, the Tory MP Emma Nicholson and some senior Liberal Democrat MPs also favour disestablishment.

The cabinet minister John Gummer, an Anglican traditionalist who resigned from the General Synod after it voted to ordain women priests, says he has never seen any reason to end establishment. But he says that the way the church now acts over women priests could influence the debate.

"The nation will be looking carefully at the way the Church of England deals with those who feel excluded. If it deals generously and makes sure those congregations can continue to worship in their parish churches, even though their priests can no longer be in communion with the Church of England, then the church will have shown itself better to deserve and respect the nature of establishment."

"If they show themselves a narrow sect, excluding all who uphold orthodox views, then of course they raise a very big question about whether the Church of England can any longer be the Church of England."

The archbishops of Canterbury and York, and most senior bishops, favour the long-term retention of an established Church of England. Dr George Carey, the Archbishop of Canterbury, says that the head of the church is not the Queen, but Jesus Christ. In his view this is distinct from the Queen's supreme governorship of the church on earth (Ruth Gledhill writes).

Dr Carey believes strongly that the established church has responsibilities towards the whole nation, including non-believers, members of other Christian denominations and of other faiths. In the House of Lords debate on the Queen's Speech last May, Dr Carey spoke of the importance he attaches to the presence of bishops in the House. He called for the spiritual, religious and moral dimensions of life to be respected as part of policy-making. "It is an integral part of our Christian commitment to try to ensure that the moral decisions which no government and no parliament can avoid are pleasing to God," he said.

Lord Runcie, former Archbishop of Canterbury, says establishment gives the church the opportunity of keeping

faith alive in a secular age. While arguing that disestablishment is ultimately inevitable, he is not an active proponent.

Dr John Habgood, the Archbishop of York, is a firm defender of establishment. He believes disestablishment would signal to the nation that it no longer cares about its religious heritage. Dr Habgood said this week that the relationship between church, state and nation is a precious one which has led to a sense of national unity and identity, backed by symbolism.

The Tory MP Michael Alison, who represents the Church Commissioners in Parliament, says the presence of bishops in the House of Lords was helpful in getting the phrase "mainly Christian" written into education reforms. He says the uncertainty surrounding the institution of the monarchy at present was "all the more reason" for the church to be looked on as a steady force.

Mr Alison shares Lord Runcie's view that establishment helps to make the church more accessible. "The General Synod and the Church Commissioners are answerable to Parliament. This means MPs can get representation from their constituents about church affairs, such as women priests," he says.

Parting with the peerage

No divorce can go through without some changes in the Lords

If church and state decide to divorce, will their parting be amicable? For declared constitutional reformers, the end of the 400-year-old marriage has always been part of a programme which would include a written constitution, a bill of rights and the complete secularisation of the state (Matthew D'Ancona writes). Chapter 88, for instance, proposes a referendum on the future of the monarchy and envisages a head of state who would pledge to uphold the constitution rather than the faith.

Within the Church of England, disestablishment has become a sort of damage limitation exercise. Progressives are concerned that the claim of the established church to represent the moral character of the nation has diminished, while many traditionalists see a loosening of the link with the state as a necessary step for a church divided. Fr Philip Ursell, the principal of Pusey House, Oxford, for instance, commends the path taken by the Church in Wales which was disestablished in 1914. "It has been far more successful than it was before. In Wales, more Anglicans go to church than any other Christian denomination."

To many, an acceptable half-way house would be reform of the Coronation Oath, which is based on the 14th-century *Liber Regalis*, to include some recognition of a multi-faith society. Yet such a gesture would be anomalous without reform of the spiritual presence in the House of Lords, currently limited to the 24 bishops and the archbishops, though the elevation of former Chief Rabbi Jakobovits may presage a more inclusive system.

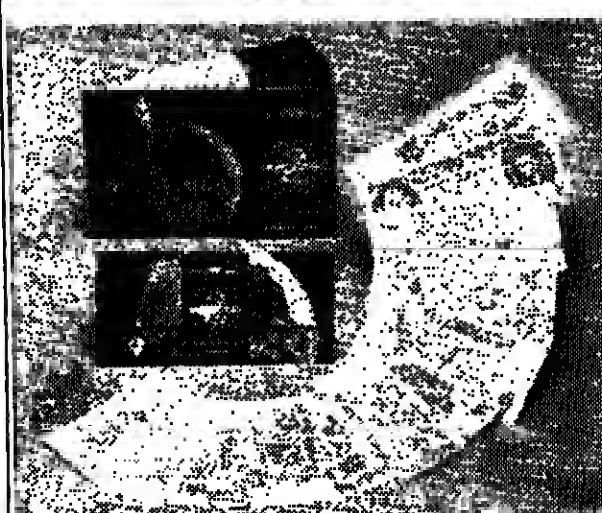
But this would not satisfy more ambitious disestablishmentarians such as Sir Michael Latham. Last year, he introduced a private bill to replace the General Synod with a more democratic ecclesiastical assembly, whose decrees would no longer require parliamentary approval.

Under his plan the bishops would lose their seats in the Lords, the clergy would gain the right to stand for Parliament, and bishops and their suffragans would be elected democratically by the church.

The state's control over ecclesiastical appointments is already withering. In 1977, the Crown Appointments Commission granted to the church "a decisive voice" in selecting new bishops, and the enquiry chaired by Sir William van Straubenzee last year argued for greater devolution of the power to appoint from Downing Street. The principle of subsidiarity is taking hold of church affairs: it would be straightforward, for example, to abolish the office of the Lord High Commissioner, who represents the sovereign in the Church of Scotland.

Other elements of disestablishment might not be achieved so smoothly. Would the clergy be freed automatically of the duty to marry, baptise and bury all those in their care? And how would the responsibilities of the Church Commissioners, who manage ecclesiastical finances, change in a secular state? Significantly, the Latham plan presented the commission as a statutory body — simply to avoid legal complexity.

FREE BANKNOTES START YOUR CURRENCY COLLECTION WITH THE TIMES



This week *The Times* has joined forces with *The Sunday Times* to introduce you to notaphily, the fascinating hobby of collecting paper money.

In the last two years, 20 new eastern European nations have emerged and with them a host of new banknotes.

To mark this changing face of eastern Europe, *The Times* is giving away two free banknotes: an historic twenty-dinar note from the former republic of Yugoslavia and a fifty-dinar note from Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In addition readers are invited to take advantage of *The Sunday Times* Second International Currency Collection. Save £1 off a special presentation wallet (pictured above), containing twelve banknotes from the former Eastern bloc countries and the USSR (normally £6.95), and receive a free sixteen page banknote album.

To obtain your two free banknotes, simply collect eight different tokens from those printed in *The Times* until Friday February 5. Token 3 appears here. Or, collect all ten tokens to receive these notes and a free *Sunday Times* International Currency Collection Album, and the opportunity to purchase the presentation wallet for only £5.95. Full details will appear next week.



The look America loves: Cecilia Chancellor photographed for Elle magazine in casual-to-the-point-of-scruffy style. "I am interested in my subjects as people," the photographer says

Getting the new picture

A new breed of British fashion photography has a cult following in American magazines. Nicola Jeal reports on the philosophy of alternative glamour

In one black and white photograph, a waif of a girl wears a shrunken thermal vest, barely there, raggedy short skirt and frayed-up-socks. In another, a gawky girl-boy (it is difficult to ascertain "his" sex) with long scraggly hair and painfully thin arms is clad in hipster jeans and an unflattering vest. You would be forgiven for thinking these might be anti-drug campaign advertisements. You would be wrong. They are fashion photographs. And you'd better get used to them. The casual-to-the-point-of-scruffy, downbeat, unisex style represents a milestone in fashion photography.

They appear in this month's *Interview*, the cult American-style magazine, to illustrate a feature about three young women — Corinne Day, Melanie Ward and Kate Moss. If you've been reading your fashion pages, you will be familiar with Ms Moss. The other two are part of a new breed of fashion photographers and stylists. The motley crew includes the photographers David Sims, Nigel Shafran, Glen Luchford and Ms Day; Anna Cockburn, the fashion editor of British *Elle*; Ms Ward, a freelance fashion stylist and Ms Moss and Cecilia Chancellor, both models. And there are plenty more where they came from.

The new young wave all hail from Britain and right now they are being championed across the Atlantic. Ms Day has just completed an advertising campaign for the top New York department store, Barneys. Camilla Nickerson, a young British stylist, was recently installed as the fashion editor at American *Vogue*. Ms Nickerson then commissioned Ms Day who was wined, dined and chauffeured over to *Vogue's* Manhattan pow-



Photographers David Sims (his picture for *Elle*, left) and Corinne Day (for *i-D*, right) say their work is real and positive

erhouse by its editor. Where Ms Day went, Mr Sims followed. The fashion images that the American glossies are now fighting over (already the unwritten "you can't work for us if you work for *Harper's Bazaar*" warnings are being heard), have appeared in *i-D* and *The Face* for the past three years.

"Ugly" is how many consumers initially regard the new

photography. The imagery resembles reportage documenting the (bad) state of teenage life today — drop-outs from a society that has only offers materialism. Surprisingly, for all their gritty and grimy images, Ms Day and Messrs Sims and Shafran use the word "hope" about their work. Reality is the image to aspire to. And reality is positively hopeful and beautiful.

"During the 1980s young people were pushed into thinking they wanted to be part of the establishment. I've nothing against supermodels, but I am interested in my subjects as people," Mr Sims says.

Mr Shafran, who works closely with Melanie Ward, agrees. "Models have been portrayed as objects... not necessarily sex objects, but objects all the same."

He bicycles around London finding "nice people" to photograph. "I want strength, confidence and hope to come across in my pictures, not some aspirational thing or my ego."

Mr Shafran recently landed the Wrangler jeans campaign. For this assignment he stopped people on New York streets to photograph them because "fashion pictures should be about

honesty and stuff like that". People are bored with that perfect supermodel look, Ms Day says. "Just because a girl has bags under her eyes doesn't mean to say she isn't beautiful. It's an alternative beauty."

Ms Ward predicts "escapism not aspiration is what the 1990s will be about. The photographer Steve Meisel, for example, creates his models. He transforms them into 1960s Bardots or 1950s starlets. We base our ideas around them. I put them into clothes that I think look as if they belong to them." Ms Ward likes shoes to look scuffed.

However, their images are as contrived as Mr Meisel's, only it is conspicuous thrift they are selling. The new fashion photography is simply photography with clothes on. It is the captions that give the game away.

They are not the first to be committed to this philosophy. Three of the most influential photographers of the 20th century in the fashion world, Robert Frank, Diane Arbus and William Klein, remained true to their belief that it was people not clothes that were interesting.

The new realists, however, enter the high fashion arena at a time when it has never been so fiercely commercial. The first test will be whether the designers take kindly to having their upmarket grunge clothes photographed on a girl who looks as if she does not know where her next meal is coming from.

Ms Ward does not think this will be a problem. "Consumers are already becoming more adventurous. It's spontaneous and real. To me that's a very positive new image."

© The author is the deputy editor of *Elle* magazine.

Great Britons in Paris



SARAH MOWER

Boarding the plane on Saturday, I had a shock. The air hostess opened the wardrobe to put in my coat, and there was hanging a full-length sable cape. Welcome to Paris. Scanning the cabin, I concluded it must belong to the woman behind me, she of the long, lacquered hair and finger-nails, and I suppose I gave her a filthy look. Never mind. If she saw, I'm sure she took it for envy.

I ought to know by now that when you go to Paris, especially when you're going to see the *haute couture* collections, you either leave your political correctness at home, or settle for feeling like an English country bumpkin. Usually, it's an uncomfortable sensation, because British women hate sticking out in a crowd. We just want to look like everyone else. We never think of standing out, which is what the difference would be if we'd been born in Paris or Milan.

This week, though, I'm beginning to feel a rising sense of pride about how British women are placed in the international fashion stakes. Taking a taxi in to the centre of Paris, you realise, apart from the incredulity at seeing fur everywhere, that there are no long skirts anywhere on the streets. They're wearing their hemlines two or three inches above the knee, and sheer beige stockings and court-shoes with two inch heels. Still. Their hair might look all coiffured, but it's stuck in a style of ten years ago, and that applies as much to the young as it does to their mothers.

By the standards of what is current, the average British women is miles ahead, having accepted the long skirt and all the stylistic adjustments that go with it months ago. What the French look like is how we wanted to look before we even discovered black lycra.

Even in 1993, there is no such thing as an homogenised Euro-look. Let alone such a thing as consensus dressing between Europe and America. Among the high-powered and highly paid gathering at the *haute couture* differences are at their most acute and enjoyable to behold — especially as the British tendency doesn't come out at all badly, for a change.

While the French are all got up in their frozen chic, the Americans have come dressed down. With Ivana Trump nowhere to be seen, the puritan ladies of the US press are a quiet presence in their understated grey and navy cashmere. Anna Wintour, the editor in chief of American *Vogue*, has been seen wearing the same outfit — a cream trouser suit with a black polo neck — twice in three days. Even Madonna, who raised a minute's desultory interest at the Versace show, turned up wearing a — for her — low-key cardigan and navy sailor trousers.

The Italians are always the ones with the big hair and all the black leather, short and tight as possible, with cross-lacing, spike heels and straps and buckles thrown in for good measure. A lot of effort has gone into this, but it hardly accords with the soft, dreamy, romantic feeling that's supposed to be the big fashion story of the moment. That's where the British come in, of course. Now that teddily, uncombed hair, eccentric layerings of wispy clothes, granny boots and glasses are in the ascendant, we're the ones who know how to do it best. While we love antique market finds, continentals have never felt comfortable with anything that looks like old clothes and have had to wait for Chanel to serve the look back to them to make it respectable. With Kate Moss, the Croydon Superwaif, up there setting the international ideal on the runway, we're beginning to feel a whole lot better about ourselves.

But when we want to feel really smug about British fashion savvy, we need only turn our heads to look at the Germans. Or rather the German. She is Renata Hirsch and she dandles her ten-year-old son, Leander, on her knee in the front row at every show. Ms Hirsch, the wife of a German industrialist, lives at the Ritz and dresses for Bavaria. Every day, she changes at least three times, from one satin floral print dirndl and puff-sleeved blouse into the next. Leander changes from a royal blue blazer to red, to black, with a gold lame bow-tie for evenings. Mutter's white-blond hair and buttermilk complexion exactly matches his.

If the international crowd can agree on nothing else, they do at least think alike about Mrs Hirsch and her boy. No nonsense here about not being beastly to the Germans. As one French woman hissed loudly through the crowd, "If she's an *haute couture* customer, what's she doing sitting there wearing her national costume?"

Why Tag Heuer professional sports watches are designed for the fearsomely active and worn by the desk-bound

If the strap fits...

There is no watch quite so fashionable and trusted after as the Tag Heuer. It is a professional sports watch designed for divers, mountaineers and other fearsomely active types, but sold far more numerously to the image-conscious desk-bound who prefer to think of their personal possessions as serious equipment.

Tag Heuer knows nothing about any recession, having increased its turnover nine-fold since the late 1980s. A combination of judiciously targeted and stylish advertising, executive flair and a damned fine product has transformed

the brand from a little-known manufacturer of timers and chronographs into one of the top watchmakers in the world. The impression that Tag Heuer rose to prominence from nowhere in so short a time belies the fact that the company has a history of more than 130 years. Edouard Heuer (pronounced Hoyer) founded his first watch factory at St Amier in Switzerland in 1860. By the 1920s, Heuer were the official timekeepers for the Olympic Games, but public awareness of the brand beyond the world of sport was virtually nil. The change came in 1985 when Heuer was



Serious equipment: the lusted-after Tag Heuer

acquired by another manufacturer of high quality precision instruments called Tag (pronounced however one pleases — it is an acronym for Technique d'Avant-Garde).

Tag Heuer's current advertising campaign sternly reminds us that the watch, "is not a piece of jewellery". Neil Duckworth, the managing director of Tag Heuer, confirms this: "If you want a diamond-studded Bezel, our watches are

not for you." Mr Duckworth has a salesman's ability to read accurately the signs in the market place. His shuntily chunky, though very elegant, watches are almost anything-proof (including water resistance up to 200 metres).

Yet there is no doubt that their main appeal during the late 1980s lay in the fact that they were reliable and stylish machinery for people not averse to demonstrating their purchasing power. If you liked the look, the only competition came from Breitling or Rolex.

The price range of Tag Heuer is wide — a watch can be yours for as little as £150, or you can spend thousands (later this year they are launching a solid 18 carat gold version — their one concession to "jewellery"). The average purchaser is male, in his late twenties, spending £400-£500.

All the watches are of the same standard, prices reflecting only the relative sophistication of case and bracelet design. It is the bracelet on the S/EL range that is largely responsible for Tag Heuer's classic status — the tactile and sinuously reptilian heavy steel or yellow metal links are truly superb.

The trouble — from Tag Heuer's point of view — is that just as fashions rise, so must they fall. Are they worried that the very considerable bubble might burst? "I think we'll lose the young man who has always to have the latest in thing," Mr Duckworth says. "But we have never marketed the watch as a fashion item." What would Mr Duckworth say to the few who put down the Tag Heuer as the poor man's Rolex? He replied equally: "No. It is much more the thinking man's Rolex."

JOSEPH CONNOLLY

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Alan Coren



The glittering prizes of chess stardom may hold terrible consequences for Nigel Short

On Monday, a *Daily Telegraph* headline did not merely catch my eye, it made it roll about in my head like a marble in a saucer. "Nigel Short on way to fortune", cried the headline. I gave the eye a moment or two to pull itself together, and read on: "Nigel Short came closer to becoming the first Western millionaire chess player after victory in the ninth game of his WCC candidates' final against Jan Timman of Holland in Spain yesterday."

But this further information did the eye no good at all. Worse, it persuaded the other one to join it in starting, like stars, from their spheres, and when the next sentence revealed that millions of dollars awaited Nigel should he subsequently go on to mate Kasparov, you will know what happened to each particular hair of my hitherto knotted and combined locks. Especially since there was nothing in this front-page story about the match itself for, you had to turn to page 19, since page 19 is a less important page than page one, and the game, such is the pretty page we have come to, is less important than the glittering prize it offers. And so it begins, as it has begun so often before. For the patriot and chess-lover (and, very soon now, it will be impossible to be the one without being the other), it is the old conundrum: while we wish Nigel every possible success, we tremble at every probable consequence. Because if the prospect of his wealth excites today's broadsheets, the arrival of it will obsess tomorrow's tabloids.

Does any of us doubt for one moment that should he dabble Kasparov to become world champion, he will simultaneously become Shozza? If he takes his wife out for a quiet celebration, shall we not learn, beneath the headline A Knight on the Tiles, that from now on it is the champagne lifestyle for Shozza and his exotic Greek-born wife, raven-haired Rea, 33? And will it be long before it is, yes, *Solt Pawn West* in Your Sozawny Sun, there, beneath the headline Check This, Mate, a sequence of elevatingly Seltotaped lovelies will pose with nothing between them and complete honesty but a strategically clutched bishop?

They will, mind, all be wearing, at the recommended angle of jauntness, baseball caps with the word Nigel on them, thriftily put by after they had served their turn for our earlier world champion. Whose supporters, now that he has left us for a handful of Indianapolis silver, will of course immediately transfer their fervid allegiance to Shozza. They will turn up in their flag-vested thousands at any match he plays, Mexican waving, exhorting him never to walk alone, and chucking lager cans at any opponent incautious enough to threaten Shozza's queen. None of which will make things any easier for the increasingly pressured champion, coming as it is bound to do on top of all his other worries, adumbrated in unending press rumours of a terminally pulled forefinger, a row with Mark McCormack over video percentages, the imminent liquidation of his Top Chess chain, the missing thousands following his exhibition match in Las Vegas about which Sharon Stone insists on remaining silent... and, inevitably, of the new Shozza.

Because Britain has no fewer than 19 grandmasters now, and who can doubt but that the shimmering prospect of a Ferrari Testarossa, a Piper Comanche, an entourage of insatiable chess-groupies, a range of monogrammed Ralph Lauren chesswear, and a hundred jazzi-dotted acres of prime Romford real estate (featured in *He'll* beneath the headline A King and his Castle) will not soon swell that number beyond present credibility? There will be Hurricane this and interesting that, there will be Smokin' Joes and Fiery Freds, and each will be younger and more inventively sponsored than the last, and some will throw tantrums and some will throw matches, and some will take drugs and some will take bribes, and all of them will be dreaming only of that moment when Nigel is compelled to knock over his king and walk into the sunset.

Or, rather, into *Dick Whittington*. Nothing terrible about that, of course, I'm not bothered by our sporting heroes ending up in pantomime. What bothers me is their beginning in it.



PURDAH

Divorce crown from mitre

Before the next sensation, John Major should set up a commission to consider repealing the 1772 Royal Marriages Act

Thank Goodness for the Archbishop of York. Despite this week's headlines, he does not believe that the Prince of Wales cannot mount the throne. He does not think that the British people are fundamentally intolerant. Nor does he believe in the disestablishment of the Church of England. He merely feels that everything in the British constitution "has its limits". I sense that if pushed by the great god Circumstance, he might even help us by defining those limits. But not yet. Not on television.

Yet Circumstance is at the door and pushing. The parliamentary Labour party is aching for constitutional reform. A quarter of it claims to be republican. The monarchy is passing through a generational trough in public esteem. Those who follow these things find church establishment less and less defensible. Dr Habgood himself says the coronation service is a source of "possible embarrassment". Where will this all end?

Non-Anglicans talking about church and state tend to sound either soppy or revolutionary. I am afraid for me that is Hobson's choice. The concept of a nation state imbued with religious, let alone sectarian, significance is anachronistic. Tell me that church and state achieve this symbiosis through an anointed hereditary line, biased towards males, and I despair of reason. I will watch the resulting spectacle with patriotic tears in my eyes, but forgive me if I afterwards lunch with Voltaire.

The composite of show business, piety and paganism that is the coronation is how Britain inaugurates its head of state. It is important. Since heads of state have, or should have, some mild leverage in a pluralist constitution, the basis of their legitimacy matters. The Labour party is right to consider the questions raised last week by Jack Straw and Marjorie Mowlam. The archbishop is right to respond, albeit I thought rather hesitantly.

We are here in the upper atmosphere of the British constitution, where a certain dotiness is sustained by great drafts of hot air. The debate on the Prince of Wales's suitability for kingship is no exception. It has always seemed to me that, as kings go, he would make an excellent one. He would win that ultimate test of consent, an election, provided only that his mother did not run against him. He happens at present to be separated from his wife. He may be divorced. I hope he may remarry and find true happiness. That is his business,

not mine. He can still be king. He has done nothing illegal, despite the nonsense written over the past month. All he cannot do, unless the law is changed, is leave the Anglican communion or marry a Roman Catholic. Nor can he remarry without the formal permission of the monarch in Parliament. Both are forbidden by statute (the Act of Settlement and the Royal Marriages Act), but even constitutional statutes can be changed at the personal bidding of a prime minister — witness the present Maastricht bill.

The recent criticism of the monarchy has been built on two unsound footings. The first is that the royal "family" has some symbolic significance. The second is that the bond with the Church of England might make a succession that is perfectly legal none the less "morally inconceivable". The first footing is now being hacked away by the Queen herself. The changes to the civil list and royal taxation are a wise reversion to true monarchy from an extended and plutocratic oligarchy. The second footing is more impenetrable.

Church establishment means next to nothing to most electors. No pollsters have delved into it. Governments do not fall by it. Long gone are the days when Trollope could construct an entire novel (*Phineas Redux* in 1876) round the imminence of disestablishment. He even had a Tory prime minister suggesting in a Queen's Speech that "it will probably be necessary for you to review the connexion which still exists between, which binds together, the Church and the State". The Liberal Opposition was appalled that the Tories could court popularity with such a measure, which should be a Liberal reform. Trollope reflected a common assumption that establishment would soon end. The church's "most fervent and credulous friends" predicted that it might last another century.

Yet here it still is, with the monarch as supreme governor, with Margaret

Thatcher appointing (and disappointing) archbishops, with the House of Lords swash in prelates and with church law subject to parliamentary sanction. I assume disestablishment has plummeted as an issue in line with church attendance. To the public, establishment is little more than a royal warrant, "By appointment to the crown... purveyor of religious services". But Prince Charles could dearyupset this marginality. If he were to marry again, which he could certainly do by his mother's leave and/or that of the cabinet, he could legally become king. But the church would be in a quandary. Prince Charles will be in breach of canon law against the remarriage of divorcees. Like his sister he would have to endure the indignity of marrying outside England or by civil ceremony.

A cardinal feature of the British constitution is its malleability. If a law, even a law on monarchy, is inconvenient it is changed. A cardinal feature of the Church of England's constitution is the opposite, rigidity. Its attitude to women's ordination, until last month, set it against the law of the land. On divorce it continues to defy custom and practice and, in doing so, inflicts misery on many of its members. The bishops' periodic dabbling in left-wing politics is more embarrassing than effective, despite the blatant conflict with established status. Yet when its constitutional privileges are challenged as anachronistic, the Church of England emerges in direct line of descent from Archbishop Laud. It resists.

Dr Habgood in his *Heart of the Matter* interview (as given, not as reported) questioned only one tenet of establishment, the coronation oath. But open that box and out pop hobgoblins galore. The oath purports to sanctify the bond between one particular church and a particular component of the constitution, the monarchy. It makes no reference to the fact that the Church of England neither represents a majority of

English churchgoers, nor is in any sense the church of all of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Nor does the ceremony recognise the extent to which sovereign power has deserted the monarch. Dr Habgood said on Sunday that the Queen "is supreme governor of the church in the same way she is supreme governor of everything else in the nation". That is either a sly dig or wholly meaningless — and Dr Habgood is not given to sly digs.

Disentangling the Church of England from the monarchy, separating "crown and mitre", must be in the interest of both parties. It should be done in advance of, rather than in response to, yet another crisis. Before the next royal marriage sensation, John Major should set up a bipartisan commission of Privy Counsellors to consider repealing the statutes governing such marriages. He and the Queen should bring the royal family under ordinary law, as they have brought the royal finances.

Parliament's ability to influence the course of monarchy through vetting royal matrimony is regarded as a defence against an unsuitable succession. Again in this debate I have to pinch myself to be sure this is 1993, not 1593. What is Parliament (which means the cabinet) hoping to achieve: no commoners or foreigners? Yet the royal family have always married one or the other. I believe they should marry whomever they like, and take the consequences. The monarch's job is not compulsory and the British have a tradition of rejecting monarchs they do not like: it was not the law but public opinion that ousted Edward VIII.

Normalising the Church of England will be harder than normalising the royal family. But at least it could then be treated as an institutional not constitutional matter. If its doctrines do not impinge on matters of state, then they are of no public account. Nor is it possible to better Trollope. His words were not fiction but are from an address to the electors of Beverley in 1868: "I would never be a member of a church which is mixed up with and looks upon the state as its support. If a church can't exist by the faith which is in the hearts of the people, that church can never bring souls to the enjoyment of heaven."

Perhaps the last act of the church's next "supreme governor" will be to force it, by his own actions, to reform its doctrine and sever its formal links with the state. Good.

Simon Jenkins

Left in the dark

IT WAS not only the City that was caught on the hop by the cut in interest rates announced by the Bank of England yesterday. Some cabinet ministers were equally unprepared, not least Michael Heseltine, who was still in the dark some three hours after the news had been relayed from Threadneedle Street. Heseltine, whose trade and industry department has been under siege from business leaders demanding a rate cut, went to the BBC studio at Millbank for a pre-recorded interview on *The One O'Clock News* about the coal pit closure programme. Before beginning the interview proper, Jon Sopel, a BBC political correspondent, asked him for his reaction to the rate cuts. Heseltine responded weakly: "What interest rate cuts?"

Having been brought up to date, the President of the Board of Trade duly delivered a series of quotes, but with the rider: "If it turns out they have not been cut, please can those comments."

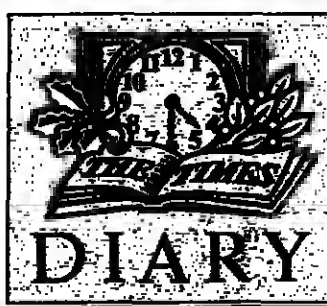
Caring any of it may not be possible as the gaffe was relayed on the internal television monitor, watched by BBC staff at the

Millbank complex, and pirate tapes of the event are already believed to be circulating. Heseltine's office made light of the fact that no one had bothered to tell their boss about the rate cut. A spokesman says: "Mr Heseltine was in meetings virtually all morning and then rushed over to Millbank to do the interviews. He did not have a moment in which he could be briefed."

The decision in principle to cut the rates yesterday was taken before John Major flew to India. The Treasury was unrepentant. A spokesman said: "Decisions are taken by the Chancellor, after consultation with the Governor of the Bank of England, and then the prime minister. He does not discuss it with the cabinet." Keeping clear of the detail, probably.

Bottom line

LORD Forte was yesterday recalling how he first acquired London's Waldorf Hotel, now emerging resplendent from a £12.5 million refit in time for his 85th birthday tomorrow. The year was 1958, when as Lord Forte put it "I had a few milk bars, a bit of a catering



operation, but no hotels. Sir Stuart Goodwin, the hotel's owner, asked to see me and told me that he wanted to sell the Waldorf to me and that the price was £600,000 and not negotiable. "I replied by asking for three conditions — first that my solicitor should see the deeds, second that I should inspect the hotel and third that I saw a set of up-to-date accounts. The first two Sir Stuart granted, but not the third. That told me everything I needed to know. So I bought it."

Camp follower

QUENTIN Crisp may have removed himself physically from England's shores, but his story lives on. From his New York lair he has been watching and encouraging the young actor, Robin

Ashenden, currently performing the first-ever stage production of *The Naked Civil Servant*, later made into a film with John Hurt. Appropriately, the play is staged at the Man in the Moon theatre in Chelsea, not far from where Crisp had his small and notoriously dusty room for 60 a week.

"I wrote to Mr Ashenden, wishing him well, both before he took the play to the Edinburgh Festival last summer, and afterwards," Crisp says. "I won't be coming back again — I don't miss England at all. In fact I'm just off to Philadelphia to film — in a crowd scene at a party."

Apparently Mr Crisp is becoming something of an expert at crowd scenes. "This will be my second one; my first was also at a party," he says blithely. John Hurt still holds much esteem in Crisp's eyes, although the two have not seen each other recently. "John lives in Ireland now, so it's difficult," Crisp says. "But I did see him a couple of years ago. He came over to play me in a film called *Resident Alien*. It was a film about my life in New York — you know, about my inability to fit in."

Fan fare

HAVING admitted last month that it had overspent by up to £60

million, the BBC is clearly taking no second chances. Everything, but everything, is now subject to the closest accounting scrutiny. David Dimbleby, nevertheless, is still somewhat taken aback by being charged for fresh air, especially at £120 an hour.

Dimbleby, presenter of the flagship *Panorama* programme, encountered the new charge at the weekend when working late at BBC headquarters in west London. Some time after 10pm on Saturday, when the office is deemed officially closed, he meekly asked for the air conditioning to be turned on. "Fine Mr Dimbleby," they said. "But you will have to pay for it. We're afraid it is a bit expensive." But as the tem-

perature was racing towards the eighties it was a choice of pay up or asphyxiate," Dimbleby says.

Officials came down with a chit, which Dimbleby had to sign, and *Panorama* will now be charged £120 an hour for the privilege of having fresh air blown in.

Management helpfully suggested to Dimbleby that he should persuade the occupants of the five floors above his to work at the same time to share the cost of the air. "Perhaps we ought to advertise air-share in the building," says Dimbleby. "It's not as if the air there is like a Welsh spring mountain, wedged as it is between Wormwood Scrubs prison and Shepherd's Bush Green," he says. "As an exponent of Producer Choice I think I will invest in a very large hammer. One heavy blow in the wall will save the BBC a lot of money."

Usually, Handel's music excites little more than the ear. On Monday, however, two fights started in the ticket queue for a one-night-only performance of *Queen Elizabeth Hall by the King's Consort*. *Old-time violence* — very pleasing. Usually this kind of thing happens at Michael Jackson concerts, not at Handel.

Keynes makes a comeback

Anatole Kaletsky
on the politics of
the interest rate cut

At long last, the Treasury is doing something right. Six per cent interest rates may or may not be low enough to trigger economic recovery, but this hardly matters any more, except to currency speculators and giltsed market makers. For Norman Lamont's unexpected announcement of the rate cut yesterday carried an all-important, albeit unstated, political rider. If base rates of 6 per cent are still not low enough to kick-start a recovery, then they will be cut again and again — to 5.4, or 3 per cent — whatever it takes to get a strong recovery under way.

The Chancellor, of course, will never publicly admit this, insisting instead that his main concern remains the conquest of inflation and that interest rates will continue to be set to stabilise all kinds of monetary indicators, including even the exchange-rate of the pound. However, it has become clear that the government's true objective is now very different: to achieve robust growth in employment, exports and consumer demand.

First there is politics. John Major is still struggling for long-term survival as prime minister. Since the pit closures began last October, he has realised that his chances of leading the Conservative party into the next election will depend critically on whether the economy recovers in the coming months. The circumstances surrounding yesterday's rate cut could have been specially arranged to send a clear political message: that the prime minister, and not the Treasury or the Bank of England, is now in charge.

Although a rate cut had been agreed in principle after last week's appalling unemployment and retail sales figures, some senior government officials were openly expressing surprise both at the timing and the decision to move rates by a full point. To cut interest rates by a full point after the pound had fallen ten pence in a week on the foreign exchanges signalled that the government was no longer going to allow its interest-rate decisions to be governed by the behaviour of foreign exchange markets. Significantly sterling was not even mentioned by the Chancellor among the monetary indicators which allegedly justified yesterday's move.

Last year, the Treasury might not have allowed him to make such an omission. But today, the Treasury knights, as well as the prime minister and Chancellor are staring into an abyss. The threat to them is not compulsory early retirement — having survived "White Wednesday" without a resignation, the Treasury officials are safe. But the Treasury, as guardian of Britain's public finances, now faces an almost unprecedented danger. Britain's public sector borrowing requirement has spiralled out of control because of the unprecedented length of the recession. Simple arithmetic shows there is only one way for Britain to avoid an Italian-style slide into permanent fiscal crisis, and that is to achieve at least two or three years of rapid growth. Only when unemployment starts falling and personal incomes and profits start rising, will there be any hope of making significant inroads into the PSBR.

But could all this be just wishful thinking? Even if Mr Major and the Treasury want a recovery, who is to say they can achieve it? This leads to the final, and most important, reason for economic confidence, now that the government's policy objectives have clearly changed. Economic ideology around the world is shifting. As a result, the deflationary spiral, which at times threatened to pull the whole world economy into a 1930s-style depression and trade war, has probably almost ended. Britain's experience since "White Wednesday" could play a significant part in this ideological transformation.

In the months ahead, Britain's accelerating economic recovery will stand out in bright contrast to the deepening recession in the rest of Europe, and prove once and for all that growth, prosperity and employment depend directly on government economic policy, not on the will of the gods.

In 1968, when mortgage rates were last at their present level, nobody would have bothered to make such a statement. It was universally recognised that maintaining economic growth and employment were among the most important responsibilities of any government. But after the great inflation of the early 1970s and the monetarist revolution that followed it, economic thinking around the world changed dramatically. The only respectable goal for government economic policy became controlling inflation.

But the political leaders of the 1980s were wrong in assuming that public alarm about rapid inflation and spiralling taxes would permanently absolve them of responsibility for stabilising employment and managing demand. With taxes and public spending taken out of the tool-kit of short-term economic management, the emphasis has shifted to interest and exchange rates, which are now the main instruments for managing employment and demand. These monetary tools may sometimes work very slowly, but there is always a level of interest rates low enough to make an economy recover, as American experience has now shown.

Whether British interest rates will have to fall to 3 per cent, as in America, or whether 6 per cent will prove low enough, only time will tell. But the political lesson from America has certainly not been lost on Mr Major: the central bankers cannot be left in charge, or the government will get the blame.



A CUT IN TIME

The government is right to make growth the top priority

After a bout of depressing economic news the Chancellor of the Exchequer has done the decent thing and cut base rates by one percentage point. This is entirely welcome news and a sign that the government is starting to listen to the cries of economic distress beyond Whitehall.

The timing and size of the cut seem to have been dictated entirely by political considerations, with the Bank of England acting as agent rather than instigator. Had the cut come last week, it would have simply looked like a panic reaction to the dreadful unemployment figures. This week, it may have the useful effect of distracting attention from the government's difficulties over coal. Yet coming as it did the day before an auction of gilt-edged stock, it could not have been better designed to irritate the Bank's best customers, the market-makers of gilt. Any ideas that Eddie George, the governor-designate, may have about distancing the Bank from its political masters were yesterday knocked firmly on the head.

Everything that can be done must now be done to ensure that the green shoots of January are not nipped by the frosts of February and March. There are at least tentative signs that confidence is returning to the economy, but some signals are pointing in the opposite direction and any recovery needs to be tenderly nurtured. The Chancellor, however, is faced with a budget deficit that threatens to hurdle out of control and the ever-present fear that inflation might accompany growth.

It looks as if these three imperatives — to speed recovery, cut the deficit and restrain inflation — point in different policy directions. Tax cuts in the March Budget would help growth but widen the deficit. Tax increases could conceivably improve public finances but would also make this nascent recovery fizzle out, as its three predecessors have done in the past two years. And all the

time, the Chancellor is wary of cutting interest rates in case looser money and a lower pound bring inflation in their wake.

Surprisingly, though, the dilemma is easier to solve than it might appear. The deficit projections are indeed alarming: the Institute of Fiscal Studies, in its 1993 Green Budget, estimates that the public sector borrowing requirement will grow to £54 billion in 1993-94, and even if the economy grows at 3 per cent a year, it will still be close to £50 billion in 1996-97 unless there are tax increases or spending cuts. Yet while the government will certainly have to make tough decisions later this year on taxes and spending, by far the most important factor in controlling the PSBR will be growth.

The reason this year's PSBR is likely to be £20 billion higher than was expected a year ago is that national income is 3 per cent less than forecast. So receipts are dramatically lower and spending, primarily on social security, is up. Thus the most important immediate risk for the Chancellor is to ensure that this time the recovery sticks. If growth is only modest over the next few years, the deficit will still grow, even with severe tax increases or spending cuts. Italy would then be a model of fiscal rectitude in comparison to Britain.

Norman Lamont's eye must therefore be firmly fixed on a lasting restoration of growth to the British economy. If that means a further interest rate cut in the Budget, there must be one. It certainly should not mean budgetary measures to take money out of people's pockets as early as March.

Provided the Chancellor is prepared to repeat yesterday's exercise as many times as necessary in the next few months, growth should be firm enough by the December Budget for him (or any successor) to risk raising taxes and cutting spending. Austerity this year should be seasonally adjusted — it will be needed in winter, not spring.

PEOPLE POWER

Clinton needs to get back in touch with his voters' concerns

William Jefferson Clinton has learnt some early lessons about the limits of presidential power. For his first few months in the job — or at least for his first few days — he hoped to be soaring around Washington like the eagle on his new official crest. Instead he has been struggling like a wasp in a jar of jam.

The single most effective theme of last year's election campaign was that the nation's capital — its politicians, pressure groups, bureaucrats, lobbyists and lawyers — did not understand the rest of the country. Bill Clinton understood this anger early. Much of the rest of Washington never understood it at all. Therein lay the seeds of his victory.

A classic moment was the complaint by the black lawyer, Anita Hill, that she had been sexually harassed by President Bush's conservative black Supreme Court nominee, Clarence Thomas. The great men of Congress, led by Senate Judiciary Committee chairman Joseph Biden, thought this of no account. The electorate thought otherwise. Ms Hill failed to dislodge Judge Thomas but her influence was potent in later dislodging George Bush.

Voters wanted change. Since change in Congress is virtually impossible — even after equally unanticipated protests at secret pay rises and free bank overdrafts for the lawmakers — the new President was the beneficiary. Bill (as he then was) Clinton offered a "new covenant" with his country, universal health care, tax cuts for the middle class, gay rights in the army and an emergency 100-day reform package. All this was to be prepared by a cabinet which, instead of being formed from the usual band of wealthy white males with token women and blacks, would be drawn from the best all-party talents, and truly "look like America".

Disappointment was not long in coming. Mr Clinton, who had so successfully avoided the traps of special interest groups while on the campaign trail, fell directly into old trouble spots as soon as he arrived in

Washington. His cabinet contained more lobbyists and lawyers than ever Mr Bush had dreamt of. It did, it was true, contain five women, four blacks and two hispanics but, as commentators wryly noted, this did not so much "look like America" as like the liberal pressure groups of America. Despite many hints over the months gone by, no Republicans were chosen.

The Washington Democrats, a giant class of politicians frustrated by the Reagan-Bush years, were delighted. They had, not however, made themselves any more closely in tune with public opinion. When the President proposed a wealthy woman lawyer for Attorney General, it was found that she had illegally employed Peruvian servants. This seemed of no more account to Mr Biden's Judiciary Committee than had Ms Hill's complaints. Voters again thought otherwise and telephoned such an outcry that the nominee was forced to withdraw.

Mr Clinton can put these reverses behind him. But he needs to get back quickly in touch with the concerns of his voters. His best act has been to give his wife Hillary the job of co-ordinating health care reform, probably the toughest fight against interest groups that he will have to face. An appointment which looks nepotistic at first glance is, instead, a clear sign that at least one part of the Washington machine will not have business as usual.

Other issues demand an even more urgent response. Yesterday he held his first meeting with the military Chiefs of Staff, hoping to discuss defence cuts, deployments in the Balkans and the downfall of Saddam Hussein. Instead he was allowed one agenda item only, his campaign pledge to lift the ban on homosexuals in the armed forces. The chiefs are set against him. Congress is turning against him. The gays and lesbians of America are themselves a potent interest group. Mr Clinton should stand by his promise nonetheless. The credibility of a president is all.

DEGREES OF EXPERTISE

To be or not to be academic

By initiating the first degree course in acting, the Guildhall School of Music and Drama obviously sees itself as raising the prestige of the profession. The head of drama at the Guildhall has stated that the awarding of an academic degree rather than a diploma, usually regarded as a vocational qualification, means that acting is recognised as being "a very intellectual process".

Training to be a performing actor has until now been quite distinct from the study of drama in a literary context, which was considered appropriate as a university degree subject. The difference is analogous to that between the diplomas that performing musicians receive from music colleges and the Bachelor of Music degree offered by university departments, which incorporates more theoretical and contextual study. Acting certainly involves, as one Guildhall student is quoted in *The Times* report as saying, "the study of human life". But she goes on to suggest that an actor's training should encompass "anthropology, psychology and philosophy".

If this ambition were to be realised, the real rigour of a practical training in the physical, intellectual and psychological skills needed for acting would be replaced by a

woolly package of peripheral subjects. The drive toward degree status on the part of what were once thought to be largely practical or craft-based disciplines, such as art and design, has been extended to media and journalism. This has occurred even though undergraduate degrees in these fields would almost inevitably be too narrow to give the education best suited for a career in newspapers or broadcasting. Some of the motivation for these changes concerns student financing. While local authority grants for degree courses are mandatory, those for diplomas in such fields as acting and music are discretionary. Thus, the hierarchy of academic and vocational qualifications is reinforced in the most direct possible way. Forms of training that ought to be encouraged to maintain their traditional integrity as "hands on", active apprenticeships to a living discipline are being pushed toward becoming pseudo-academic subjects, simply in order to compete for grant awards.

Just as a degree course in acting is likely to be too broad to suit its real purpose, a degree in journalism or broadcasting will be too limited. Academic qualifications should not be the goal, or academic study the model, for every educational pursuit.

Ways of selecting the sex of a baby

From Professor R. G. Edwards, FRS

Sir, I welcome the prospect of wide discussion of the question of parents selecting the sex of their babies (reports, January 23). Perhaps, however, the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority could undertake a controlled study into the efficacy of the albumin method of sperm separation, before or during the ethical debate on human sex selection. Many authorities question that X and Y spermatozoa are separated by this method, and an independent verification should be easy today when chromosomes can be identified in sperm heads.

While doing this, the authority should commission a simultaneous study of a second American method of separating X and Y spermatozoa. This is very effective in laboratory and farm animals, but depends on staining DNA in the sperm head. It is laborious, and only relatively few spermatozoa can be separated. The biggest question concerns the risks of inducing mutations or other genetic changes in the male genome, which must obviously be answered before applying the method to man.

I have no serious objection to sex selection for genetic or perhaps for some social reasons. The efficiency and acceptability of the methods should be decided first, followed by an ethical decision about its application.

Yours faithfully,
R. G. EDWARDS,
Churchill College, Cambridge.
January 25.

Security scrutiny

From Dr P. J. D. Gething

Sir, Mr J. Wadham, of Liberty (letter, January 20), suggests a committee of MPs with power to scrutinise the work of the security services and their budgets. Has it occurred to him that such a committee might decide that more should be spent than the government of the day considered appropriate? For example, an all-party committee that included vocal Ulster Unionists might well decide that expenditure on covert operations in Northern Ireland should be substantially increased.

I would much prefer any scrutiny committee to be made up of a few distinguished privy counsellors, with established reputations and no longer ambitious for power, rather than a larger all-party committee of MPs, many of whom might be seeking publicity to help their next election campaign.

Yours faithfully,
P. J. D. GETTING,
26 Dulke Mead, Fleet, Hampshire.
January 20.

Mighty music

From Mr Keith Mitchell

Sir, An interesting sidelight on the tedious modern obsession with "authenticity" (letters, January 21) is provided by records of the first of the Handel commemorations in Westminster Abbey. This was in 1784, only 25 years after the composer's death, and of those involved in it, quite a number must have been well able to recall how the music was performed in his lifetime.

The choir on that occasion was nearly 300-strong and included, astonishingly, 83 tenors and 84 basses. Nor were the size and balance of the orchestra any less amazing: a total of 250 players, including 95 violins, 26 oboes and 26 bassoons.

Yes, the Victorians did go over the top 100 years later with their 3,000-strong choirs at the Crystal Palace. But do let us not be too dogmatic about the forces to be employed in the performance of baroque music.

Yours faithfully,
KEITH MITCHELL,
4 Cambridge Street,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent.

Conversion factors

From Mr P. E. A. Chaddock

Sir, UK and continental motor manufacturers' fuel consumption figures provide a conversion factor worthy of inclusion in any new European's diary (Dr Palmer's letter, January 26). The challenge is: miles per gallon to litres per 100 kilometres.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CHADDOCK,
17 Wain a Long Road,
Salisbury, Wiltshire.

Cracking the code

From Mr David Wolfson

Sir, The composer of the "Morse" television score, Barrington Pheloung, asserts (report, January 23) that, contrary to speculation, Morse's first name is not Ernest nor does it begin with an "E". However, in Colin Dexter's novel, *The Wench is Dead* (page 151), a hospitalised Morse confirms to a nurse that he is the "E. Morse" in the phone book. He does not reveal his first name, muttering "Just call me Morse".

Elementary, my dear Pheloung.
Yours faithfully,
DAVID WOLFSON,
49 Raffles House,
Brampton Grove, NW4.
January 25.

Legal-aid advice to Lord Chancellor

From Mr John Hardy

Sir, In his article of January 22, "Paying the price of justice", the Lord Chancellor outlines his intended reforms of the legal-aid system, aimed at reducing costs while improving efficiency and quality. No doubt he will succeed in cost-cutting simply by lowering the numbers of those eligible for legal aid, but the suggestion that the reforms will increase efficiency and quality does not stand up to serious examination.

Legal-aid remuneration is now so low that the dwindling number of dedicated legal-aid lawyers still in practice have to operate at maximum efficiency or else become bankrupt. As an example of arcane practice Lord Mackay cites payment by the hour, which he describes as an "arrangement which positively encourages the inefficiency". How odd it is, then, that virtually all providers of private professional services charge their customers by the hour. Does Lord Mackay think that those firms are inefficient or that their clients would allow them to be so? The reality is that an hourly rate is probably the most accurate measure of the complexity of a case and the level of work undertaken. Standard fees will promote inefficiency by acting as a positive inducement to cut corners in more complicated cases.

The Lord Chancellor acknowledges that one effect of his proposals will be to restrict the number of firms offering legal-aid services. How curious it is that a Cabinet minister of a government whose political ethos is centred on free competition and market forces would have us believe that reduced choice will lead to greater quality and that less competition will make for greater efficiency.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN HARDY,
1 Hare Court, EC4.
January 23.

From Mr Sproule Bolton

Sir, The Law Society proposals, put forward as alternatives to the government's planned legal-aid cuts, smack of panic (report, January 20, later editions). There is an alternative which has merit.

It is not widely known outside the

profession that solicitors retain, subject to and within the accounts rules, the interest which is earned on clients' accounts. This interest forms part of the income of the firm for distribution each year. It is beyond dispute that that interest, in law, belongs to the lay client, and not to the firm. The individual amount on a transaction of two or three days is small. The annual aggregate of those amounts is substantial, even for a small firm.

If the Lord Chancellor wishes to continue to attract efficient lawyers to undertake legal-aid work, he must recognise that they will have to be paid on a commercial basis which their accountants tell them that they can afford. If he wishes to produce that result without increasing public expenditure he should consider asking the Law Society to agree that client interest (preferably of those firms who do not undertake legal-aid work, to provide an incentive) should be paid into a fund managed by the Law Society. The Law Society could then use that fund to supplement the Legal Aid Fund, at its sole discretion.

Lawyers do not like novelty. This proposal has been adopted in British Columbia since 1969, and the practice is now followed in almost every other jurisdiction in North America.

Yours faithfully,
SPOULE BOLTON,
Gorse Cottage, Lydd Road,
Camber, Rye, East Sussex.
January 22.

From Mr Frank G. Gee

Sir, Most high street solicitors can give the name of at least one "client" who appears in court time after time for offences such as taking and driving away, GBH, housebreaking, muggings, etc. Each time the offender is given the services of a solicitor and possibly that of counsel, paid for by the very people he has attacked.

By all means, let every alleged offender have free legal aid, but ration it to, say, once in every three years. This might even have the effect of making a persistent offender think twice before "going out on a job".

Yours faithfully,
FRANK G. GEE,
10 Steyning Close,
Kenley, Surrey.
January 23.

circumstances in which we then found ourselves, was presumably worth taking.

2. In my case, I was, then and subsequently, strongly in favour of Churchill's decision not to enter into any negotiations for peace with Hitler himself.

3. The full horrors of the Nazi regime were no doubt only partially known to members of Churchill's government in 1940, but were quite apparent in 1941. This alone would have prevented a "stand-off" agreement at the time of the arrival of Hess. Anyhow, even if it had been possible to conclude it on the terms now suggested by Alan Clark (which is very doubtful), it would not, Britain being neutral, have prevented a total German victory over Russia. And then where should we have been?

Yours truly,
GLADWYN,
House of Lords.
January 21.

Churchill at war

From Lord Gladwyn

Sir, I am rather flattered to have been singled out by Alan Clark from among the many critics of his review of John Channon's book on Churchill ("Historians who go to war with hindsight", January 16). But perhaps I may be allowed to make the following short points:

1. My conversation with Signor Parascio of the Italian embassy on May 26, 1940 (i.e., before the fall of France), to which Mr Clark alludes, was entirely devoted to the instructions of Lord Halifax to discovering the conditions on which Mussolini might be prepared to induce Hitler to agree to a conference for ending the war which would result, *inter alia*, in his evacuating "his ill-gotten gains", i.e., northern France and western Poland. As we know, nothing came of this initiative, which, given the

Graveyard habitats

From Mr G. C. Yorke

Sir, Our graveyards can indeed become ideal wildlife habitats (Mrs Sylvia M. Barnard's letter, January 13) but only if they are managed in an ecologically sensitive way and not manicured (Miss Eve Dennis's letter on the same day).

Neither must they be sprayed with chemicals. In the middle of Winchester is West Hill Cemetery, started in Victorian times, a six-acre chalk grassland hillside. In the bad old days, the city council used to spray it with "retardants" to reduce mowing and applied total weed-killer which converted all edges to dead scorched strips. Ground elder was the only beneficiary: other flowers and all the butterflies were banished.

Four years ago, we persuaded the

council to stop using chemicals and to allow a little sweet disorder in parts of the cemetery while mowing selected swathes to allow access to visited graves. The new mowing regime created a mosaic of different grass heights to suit the different butterfly species.

The flowers recovered from their chemical suppression and many butterfly species — Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Marbled Whites, Small Coppers, Common Blues and, of course, the townie Holly Blues — returned to the cemetery in force. And the new management method turned out to be cheaper than the old one.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE YORKE
(Chairman, Hampshire branch,
Butterfly Conservation),
Hugbourne, Shaftesbury,
Wiltshire, Hampshire.

Find the headline

From Mr Robert Alcock

Sir, Having recently started reading *The Times* regularly, I have noticed a marked similarity in style between the crossword clues and the headlines.

Some of today's best examples are: "The baroness's elusive plan"; "On the heights of danger"; "Holidays with get up and go"; "Having difficulty in moving a corpse"; "Futile exploits involving the French"; "Estate agents fear new workload imposed by need to tell the truth". Assuming readers can guess which of these are headlines, can they also work out what the stories to which they refer are about? My friends have found it a challenge.

The answers have already been published. There are no prizes.
Yours cryptically,
N. R. ALCOCK,
18 Portland Place,
Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.
January 21.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Over-exposure in south of France

From Mr John Matthews

Sir, Paul Eddy in his Weekend article, "Over-exposure in Provence" (January 23), complains of building developments in the south of France, on the grounds that they attract too many tourists, and criticises Peter Mayle, the author of several popular books on the area, for a patronising attitude to the locals. What exactly does he mean?

He admits, as an expatriate, blaming Mayle for ruining his back yard, Menerbes, by provoking a tourist invasion. But the locals don't object. They like tourists and are making provision for them by putting up two buildings, one "practically invisible", according to Eddy. Is this "ruining life in the Luberon"?

Is he objecting to a possible rash of unwholesome development? Only so much development is allowed and regulations apply, as here, as to what can be built.

He clearly objects to Mayle misrepresenting the locals and writing cruelly about them, and picks out Mayle's treatment of Georges, the café proprietor. But the locals will surely profit financially from the 85,000 tourists. So it gets back to Nimphy (Not in my provincial back yard).

Incidentally the BBC film of the book is not the first about the Luberon to be shown on TV. Marcel Pagnol's masterpieces, *Jean de Florette* and *Manon des Sources*, both appeared on BBC television over the Christmas period.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN MATTHEWS,
1 Barnfield Place, E14.
January 24.

From Mrs Doreen A. Goffin

Sir, I was saddened to read Paul Eddy's whingeing article.

Peter Mayle's amusing character sketches are not "unrecognisable caricatures". I have met a couple of Mayle's builders. He described them accurately. The only people ridiculed, justifiably so, are the sponging English visitors who are mentioned several times in his books.

You cannot blame Peter Mayle for the village hall having been erected in Menerbes. Presumably, the Menerbes townfolk wanted it, and the local authority agreed. Similarly, in nearby Apt, they have recently repaved all the inner streets, benefiting tourists and locals alike. Would Paul Eddy and the other expatriate whingers deprive the Aptois of these improvements?

What I see in this article is a clear case of sour grapes. The English expatriates are sick that a relative newcomer has within a short time made good.

Yours faithfully,
DOREEN A. GOFFIN,
24 Blenheim Road,
St Albans, Hertfordshire.
January 24.

From Mr R. Aylieff

Sir, One wonders why it should be OK for the disgruntled Mr Eddy to write bitorily about Menerbes but not OK for Mr Mayle to write entertainingly. Mr Eddy seems a well balanced chap — a chip on both shoulders.

Yours faithfully,
ROY AYLIEFF,
Medlar Place, Steep,
Petersfield, Hampshire.
January 23.

Called to account

From Mr John Hoare

Sir, If Mr John Potter (letter, January 21) is incapable of counting a finite list of names in accountancy exam results it seems that he may need the services of a chartered accountant to do his sums for him.

The fact remains that in undertaking two rigorous examinations and three or four years' practical experience, student chartered accountants are following one of the best routes to a business career — at no cost to the taxpayer.

Mr Potter should not be depressed, he should be encouraged.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN HOARE (Chairman),
London Society of
Chartered Accountants,
Friendly House,
52 Tabernacle Street, EC2.
January 21.

From Dr Vaughan Smith

Sir, Cheer up, Mr Potter! In a country where accountants outnumber coal miners, we'll soon have nothing but money to burn!

Yours faithfully,
VAUGHAN SMITH,
Bryher, Lyngford Lane,
Tamton, Somerset.
January 21.

From Mr Richard Max

Sir, If Mr Potter wants a really good read, he should wait until next October when the Law Society will publish its results for hopeful solicitors.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD MAX,
Flat 7, Elaine Court,
123 Haverstock Hill, NW3.
January 21.

OBITUARIES

HEDI NOUIRA

Hedi Nouira, prime minister of Tunisia, 1970-80, died on January 25 aged 82. He was born at Monastir, 80 miles south-east of Tunis.

THROUGHOUT his political career, Hedi Nouira was the right-hand man of Habib Bourguiba, the father of Tunisia's independence and the country's president for thirty years. As prime minister during the 1970s — and Bourguiba's designated successor — Nouira instituted a policy of economic liberalisation following a radical and eventually disastrous experiment in collectivised agriculture and hardline socialism which had been pursued during the latter half of the 1960s. In 1974 he foiled an attempt by Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, to engineer a Libyan-Tunisian merger and in 1978 survived as prime minister in spite of serious industrial unrest. He took a tough line against dissidents and resisted swelling demand for multi-party democracy. A serious heart attack in February 1980 brought his political career to a close and paved the way for a modest opening up of the political process.

and in 1937 became a member of the Tunis Bar. A year later he became secretary of the Tunisian Workers Federation but, in the same year, was arrested by the French Protectorate authorities on charges of subversion and deported to France. He was freed as a result of the wartime German occupation and subsequently returned to Tunis where he eventually became the secretary-general of the Parti Socialiste Destourien (PSD), the main Tunisian independence movement.

In both 1952 and 1953 his political activities led to his repeated arrest and release, but in 1954 he resigned from the party to devote himself to his legal practice. Soon afterwards, however, he consented to become minister of commerce in a provisional Tunisian administration and in 1956, became minister of finance in the country's first independent government, headed by Bourguiba.

In 1958 Nouira founded the Central Bank, and for the next 11 years was its general manager. In 1968 he was one of the few Tunisians who had the temerity to warn the government against the excesses being committed by the president's henchman, Ahmed ben Salah, through the programme of agricultural collectivisation. His stock rose proportionately



when, in 1969, ben Salah was arraigned on charges of mismanagement and corruption. As a result, when the venerable Bahi Ladgham was called upon to leave Tunisia in 1970, to preside over an Arab League conciliation mission in Jordan, Nouira, to general approval, was chosen to succeed him as prime minister. Four years later, at the

ninth party congress of the PSD, Nouira's power was consolidated when he was confirmed as secretary general of the party and officially designated Bourguiba's successor.

The extent of his authority had been indicated in January 1974 when, after a meeting between Bourguiba and Colonel Gaddafi, it was announced that Tunisia and Libya had agreed to form a union, with Bourguiba as president and Gaddafi as his deputy. It soon emerged, however, that the Djerba Agreement had been engineered, on the Tunisian side, by the foreign minister Muhammad Masoudi without the agreement of Nouira who had been away at the time. On his return to Tunis, Nouira cancelled the agreement and dismissed Masoudi. Tunisian-Libyan relations were uneasy for years afterwards.

Nouira's government was marked by increasingly oppressive rule. Hundreds of people, mostly Marxist students, were imprisoned for belonging to unauthorised organisations. But as Bourguiba's health grew weaker in the second half of the decade, Nouira was unable to impose his authority sufficiently to step easily into his shoes and was confronted by greater demands for civil liberties and by trade union-led unrest among the workforce. On January 26, 1978, after government attacks on union

offices, the trade union association called a general strike which quickly degenerated into violent clashes between the authorities and the strikers. The army was called in, hundreds of demonstrators were arrested and union leaders put on trial for subversion.

The following year Nouira rejected demands for multi-party politics and turned down proposals that the party be opened up to new ideas. The pressures for reform continued to build, however, and in 1980 there was trouble from another direction when the town of Gafsa in western Tunisia was attacked by a band of guerrillas. Responsibility was claimed by a group calling itself the Tunisian Armed Resistance which said its aim was to free Tunisia from the "dictatorship" of the PSD. The Tunisian army quickly regained control of the town but international concern was aroused. French aircraft and naval vessels were dispatched to Tunisia while the US promised to speed up military supplies.

A month later Hedi Nouira suffered a heart attack. His resignation paved the way for a relatively more tolerant administration under Muhammad Mzali, whose administration included three ministers who had resigned three years earlier in protest at the harsh actions taken against the strikers.

PROFESSOR GEORGE RUDÉ

Professor George Rudé, Marxist historian, died on January 8 aged 82. He was born in Oslo on February 8, 1910.

A PIONEER in the writing of "history from below", George Rudé focused on the role of crowds, mobs and rioters in the great revolutions of 18th and 19th century Europe and was one of a new school of Marxist historians to appreciate the importance of class conflict in historical movements.

Born into a prosperous banking family in Norway, to an English mother and a Norwegian father, George Rudé moved to London at the age of nine. He adopted the spelling Rudé to thwart humorists at prep school, and finished his education at Shrewsbury and Trinity College, Cambridge.

In 1932 he visited the Soviet Union with a party of friends (including the cartoonist Low), underwent a political conversion and returned to England a communist. As a teacher of modern languages at Stowe, and later at St Paul's, Rudé was forced to keep his political beliefs to himself. Former pupils, however, recall his choice of texts for translation as having a strong socialist flavour.

During the war, he worked for the London Fire Service. When he was not dousing flames with his friend and colleague, Stephen Spender, Rudé was becoming serious about history. From his reading of Marx and Engels, he acquired the incentive to "read history afresh" and took a part-time degree in history at the University of London. In 1949, St Paul's decided to let their increasingly radical language teacher go, and Rudé was forced to find work at a grammar school and later a secondary modern.

Fascinated by all things French, Rudé started to research in non-teaching hours for a thesis on urban insurrections in the French revolution, work which was later to form the basis of his first book *The Crowd in the French Revolution* (1935). Rudé concentrated on the hitherto ignored 18th century. With little money to finance his research, he went to Paris and delved through police archives.

Rudé asked new questions about the previously "voiceless" mob as a collection of individuals. "Not only who they were, but how did they get there?" He discovered their names, professions and politics, portraying them as, on the whole, a surprisingly sober group of artisans and workmen, and rewrote the history of 1789 "from the bottom up".

Rudé's supervisor in England was less than sympathetic to this approach and the advent of the Cold War effectively prevented him from going on to an academic post in Britain. From 1960, Rudé was forced to abandon England for warmer climates, occasionally returning to his home in Sussex for holidays. His academic wanderings began in Australia, at Adelaide University, and continued in Canada in Montreal at what later became Concordia University. There he established a bilingual Inter-University Centre for European Studies, to encourage dialogue between English and French speaking historians.

A distinguished lecturer and teacher, he found time to write a prodigious number of books, including *Wilkes and Liberty* (1962), *The Crowd in History* (1964) and with E. J. Hobsbawm, *Captain Swing* (1969). He also produced a number of general historical overviews for publishers, including *Revolutionary Europe* (1964), *Robespierre* (1967) and *Europe in the Eighteenth Century* (1972), gaining a reputation for being able to condense meticulous research into a lucid account for the layman.

In 1985, colleagues, including Christopher Hill and E. J. Hobsbawm, honoured him with a *Festschrift* entitled *History from Below: Studies in Popular Protest and Popular Ideology*. Rudé was a modest man with a wry sense of humour. He loved England, despite his lack of success there. He never recanted his political faith or dreamed of approaching history from anything but a Marxist perspective, despite that discipline's waning popularity in academic circles. When, in recent years, he was no longer able to write he returned to Sussex.

In 1940, he married Doreen de la Haye from Dublin, who survives him.



BRIGADIER PETER ACLAND

Brigadier Peter Bevil Edward Acland, OBE, MC TD, former vice-lord lieutenant of Devon, died on January 9 aged 90. He was born on July 9, 1902.

PETER Acland, a "bimbashi" (subaltern) in the Sudan Defence Force at the start of the second world war, rose to become the governor of Cyrenaica at the end of it.

He won his MC while fighting the Italians in Abyssinia. Leading a company he had himself raised in western Sudan, he mounted a night-time assault on an enemy stronghold — but paid for it by being blasted by a hand grenade. Badly wounded, he recuperated in Kenya and the Sudan, then rejoined his company in Abyssinia, based in Asmara. His colonial experience and knowledge of Arabic, however, then found him a place in OETA — the "Occupied Enemy Territory Administration" — attached to the 39 Corps in the Eighth Army.

He was on General Sir Oliver Leese's staff at the capture of Tripoli then, after

returning to Cairo in June 1943, was given a hazardous assignment in the Aegean: supplying the starving people of the Dodecanese Islands. Operating under cover of darkness, Peter Acland's assault craft led a tiny convoy which slipped in and out of the harbours, dodging German coastal patrols. He survived, however, to receive his greatest prize: the surrender of the local German commander.

On leaving the Aegean, Acland was mentioned in despatches. Then after home leave (his first for seven years) OETA put him in charge of liberated Cyrenaica. His OBE was a recognition of his work there.

Although a brigadier when the war ended, Peter Acland had never been a regular soldier. Educated at Eton and Christ Church, Oxford, where he read history, he entered the Sudan Political Service and remained there from 1924 until 1940. Starting as an assistant district commissioner in Kassala province in eastern Sudan, he moved to Port Sudan, then Darfur and finally

Wad Medani in the cotton growing belt, where he was the official resident when war broke out. He returned to the Sudan only briefly after the war. Instead of trying to pick up the pieces of his old career, he opted to resettle in Devon, in the family home near Honiton.

There he remained for the rest of his life, farming and entering the public life of the county. He served in the Royal Devon Yeomanry for four years from 1947, becoming its honorary colonel in 1953 and chairman of Devon Territorial and Auxiliary Forces Association in 1960. He was a chairman of the Devon Agriculture Executive Council 1948-58 and a member of the National Parks Commission 1953-60.

Appointed a deputy lieutenant in 1948, he served as county high sheriff in 1961 and vice-lord lieutenant in 1962-78. He also became a JP in 1962 and was a church warden for as long as 30 years. A fine sportsman, Acland excelled at hockey, polo (he

used to bring a polo team annually to Britain from the Sudan) and especially cricket. He was in "the 22" at Eton, while never quite making the first XI, played for Christ Church and narrowly missed a cricket blue. He later played for the Eton Ramblers and the Devon Dimplings for many years and was turning out at the age of 70 — despite the wartime shrapnel still lodged in his legs.

Known locally as "the Brig" he held the 4th class Order of the Blue Nile, the Greek War Cross and, less officially, an Italian gold medal he had liberated from an enemy safe in wartime Tripoli. He is survived by his wife Bridget who was also mentioned in despatches for her work with military intelligence in wartime Cairo and by two sons: Major General Sir John Acland who commanded the monitoring force in Rhodesia-Zimbabwe 1979-80; and Sir Antony Acland, former head of the Foreign Office and British ambassador in Washington and now Provost of Eton.

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UGUR MUMCU

UGUR Mumcu, Turkish author and newspaper columnist, died in a car bomb explosion in Ankara on January 24 aged 50. He was born in Kars, central Anatolia, on August 22, 1942.

UGUR Mumcu, enjoyed a rare and affectionate place in Turkey's national life. The topics into which he probed as a journalist included: arms smuggling and terrorism; abusive language used by deputies in the Grand National Assembly; the background of the Pope's would-be assassin, Mehmet Ali Agca; civil liberties; the Ozal free market reforms; democracy and socialism; and Saudi Arabian backing for fundamentalist movements in Turkey.

Those who doubted his conclusions were usually unaware that Mumcu often possessed not merely photocopies but original documents about which he was writing. Sometimes right down to the bus tickets. He detested simplistic conspiracy theories and, although credit for the exposure of Communist Bulgarian in-

UGUR MUMCU

volvement in terrorism in Turkey belongs to him, he regarded many of the claims outside Turkey about a Bulgarian plot against Pope John Paul II as mere disinformation.

At the time of his death, Mumcu was engaged in research on the hottest topic of the day in Turkey: the background of the Peoples Party of Kurdistan terrorist movement. A staunch Kemaalist, Ugr was an uncompromising opponent of the Kurdish separatist guerrillas, but he seemed to have discovered that his research was leading in some disturbing directions pointing straight back to Ankara. After his death, several telephone calls, purporting to be from Islamic fundamentalist groups were received. But Mumcu said that he had established that several notable assassinations of prominent secularists in Turkey over the last five years, which were usually blamed on Islamic fundamentalists, were not in fact their work.

A graduate from the Ankara University Law Faculty in 1966 Mumcu practised at the Ankara Bar for two years before

UGUR MUMCU

returning to the university as a lecturer. But his work there was cut short by the military coup of 1971 when he was briefly imprisoned and charged with involvement in a left-wing conspiracy.

The prosecution failed, but as Mumcu had not done his military service, he was exiled to the remote town of Pamos in eastern Turkey where he served as a private soldier rather than a reserve officer.

On his return to Ankara, Mumcu launched a successful prosecution for damages and wrote up his experiences as a draft book of memoirs. Soon after, he embarked on a career as a newspaper columnist and writer and quickly became the main voice of the social democratic left in Turkey.

Ugr Mumcu's influence in Turkey was probably underestimated by foreigners, partly because he detested wasting time on the Ankara diplomatic cocktail circuit. His readers idolised him but Mumcu paid little attention to it.

Mumcu leaves his widow, Guldal, and their two children.

EDDIE BROWN

Eddie Brown, American tap dancer, has died aged 74.

EDDIE Brown who won fame as a master of rhythmic tap improvisation schooled a generation of dancers, and mesmerised audiences with his improvisation. When the band played, he would spontaneously weave intricate, rhyth-

mically diverse steps, the way jazz musicians improvise tunes.

"He wasn't ever afraid to give away any of his best steps because his best steps were constantly coming," said Babs Yohai-Koffin, a San Francisco tap dancer and instructor.

Brown was born in Omaha, one of 14 children, and learnt tap dancing on street corners

and from an uncle who would rap Brown's ankles with a stick when he bungled steps.

Legend has it that the tap dancer Bill "Bojangles" Robinson discovered the 16-year-old Brown while touring Omaha and that Brown ran away and toured China with Robinson.

In the 1930s, Brown became a solo performer, primarily in San Francisco.

He found fame again in the 1970s as lead tap dancer in "Evolution of the Blues," a variety show featuring noted black entertainers. He moved to Los Angeles in 1982 and eventually taught hundreds of students.

Eddie Brown received two choreography fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts.

ON THIS DAY

January 27 1865

A clergyman, found guilty of cruelty to a horse, only just escaped a spell in the House of Correction.

of the nature of his calling and business, he requested the offender to dismount, and upon removing the saddle and sheepskin he called the defendant's attention to the discharge then issuing from the wound, and the inflammation surrounding it. The police-constable and officer Hasemar (of the Royal Society) and other witnesses, having proved the offence the skin was produced, and it showed two patches of blood and matter, each about a foot square, the wool being completely

saturated. The sight of the skin called forth loud expressions of disgust from the body of the court, which with all avenues leading to it was crowded with persons from surrounding villages. The rev. defendant cross-examined the witnesses severely; but he was unable to shake the evidence for the prosecution. After a patient hearing, the magistrates cleared the court, and upon the public being re-admitted, the chairman said, "Mr. Hurst, we are of the opinion that this is a case of the very basest cruelty. The charges are fully proved against you, and it is my painful duty to say that we have had the gravest doubts whether we ought not to commit you at once to the House of Correction. We fine you the full pecuniary penalty of 5l, and costs in each case, and we wish we could make the amount double or treble. In default of payment you will be committed to the House of Correction for two months' hard labour." The rev. defendant stated he should appeal, but ultimately paid the penalties and costs, amounting to 19l. 16s. - Express.

Why
can be
do it

Contract and make a killing

Jane Reed flicks through a range of profitable in-house magazines

I will read almost anything, anywhere. Section 1 of the telephone directory has great literary merit if you are sheltering from the rain in a vandalised phone box. But I do have real trouble with airline magazines — even when the alternative is oh goody, two thousand miles of fluffy clouds, and those magazines stuffed into my gas bill. It's terribly unfair, because often the only difference between the (usually free) magazines produced under contract and the bookstall variety that rely on consumer choice, is a couple of pounds at the most. The same love, professionalism and talent flows through them all. Well, nearly all.

The publishing formulae for contract magazines vary, but for instance a gas company or an airline contracts a publishing company to produce a magazine, the contents of which will in some way extol the virtues of its paymaster. Among the first of the contract magazines was British Airways' *High Life*, published by Bill Davis, who went on to become a publishing millionaire. Now every airline has its own glossy, padded with pages of duty-free goods and odd little features you won't find anywhere else. "Know your nuts" in the super-glossy Gulf Air title is three pages, two of which are wall-to-wall hazelnuts. Hazel nuts come from somewhere Gulf Air flies to but do I want to know?

The contract publishing market has grown steadily since the seventies, but in the last five years turnover from a combination of advertising and service fees has leapt by an astonishing 152 per cent, to become probably the most developed market of its kind in Europe.

With 31 per cent of the market, the leading company HHL, launched by Bill Davis and later sold to Maxwell, is seen as a sort of IPC, a publishers' rather than an editors' — publisher, it is big, successful, efficient, and said by competitors to lack something. HHL's newly launched *Martini* *Arts Today* looks like knocking them dead, though. And they do one of the earliest — and still best — contract titles, Exchange Contracts, beamed at new home owners under the auspices of The Law Society.

Among the leaders, Redwood is the sort of National Magazine Company or Conde Nast of contracting publishing. An edi-

tor's publisher, most of its titles are glossy, with a consistent style. Their list of titles includes one for American Express Gold Card holders and one for Green Card holders, both of which look unenvyingly the same and both of which claim some "exclusive" — but nevertheless excellent — offers. Yes, yes, I want to be upgraded to a "Jacuzzi Studio" at the Mayfair with caviar and a limo to take me to the Bolshoi.

Redwood is the publisher mostly owned by the BBC and which does their TV spin-off titles like *The Clothes Show Magazine*, *Good Food* and *Gardeners' World*, the ones that benefited from all that cross promotion by the BBC. One of Redwood's newest non-BBC titles is the quarterly *Good Idea!* for Woolworths, a Prima/Best lookalike edited by Richard Barber, one-time

Woman magazine editor. The publishing secret of this title is supplier support: Redwood have pitched a credible advertisement sales story so that suppliers to Woolworths see this title as a good medium for their direct advertising. Apparently other supermarket chains are watching the magazine carefully, with two more likely to launch before the end of the year.

Forward Publishing is the EMAP of contract publishing. Young, pushy but with some heavy clients like the Post Office and IBM, Forward's impressive computer title *Helpware* for IBM is published Europe-wide in 11 languages. How on earth do you translate "for those desperate to debug their dongle" into Danish?

Some publishers develop expertise in particular areas, like The Publishing Team, a small private company headed by young entrepreneurs Tony Craddock and Mark Flanders. They list publications for NatWest, Barclays, Mercantile Credit, Alliance & Leicester, Save & Prosper. Tony Craddock himself is one of the driving forces behind the initiative to set up a formal representative body for contract publishing. All being well he will chair The Association of Publishing Agencies this spring, a sure sign of a maturing market. My guess is that the publishing giants will have to reconsider contract publishing, if only to protect their revenue base.

* Source: Mintel Special Report 1992



Spin-off: Clothes Show

Eve 'n' Dee: even deeper rivalry

Robin Hunt reports
on the Sunday
magazine battle
between the *Mail*
and the *Express*

Of all the minor skirmishes which make up the circulation war still known as Fleet Street, the one between the *Daily Mail* and the *Daily Express* (and more recently their Sunday siblings) best captures the comic spirit of Evelyn Waugh's *Scop*.

Consider first their respective offices. Lately exiled from Fleet Street, both great dynasties have chosen appropriate new homes. Associated Newspapers (the *Daily Mail*, *Mail on Sunday* and the *London Evening Standard*) crossed town for Kensington, while Express Newspapers slipped quietly around the corner from "the street" to the southern extremity of Blackfriars Bridge.

The locations say much. Associated has all the glamour of Kensington. Once through an unprepossessing entrance, a visitor is greeted with extraordinary splendour: the eye is led ever upward past long elevators towards marble and glass, fountains, a desert of cool white space. The effect is not unlike that of a high-class shopping mall. Staff are a five-minute taxi ride from Harrods. Express Newspapers has settled for a lurking grey juggernaut of a building overlooking the Thames: next door, trains from Charing Cross rumble past at all hours. Inside, the ornamentation is minimal, a visitor is impressed with restraint rather than show. Staff are a 30-minute rail journey from Sevenoaks.

The *Mail* and *Express* seem always at war, whether it is bickering between their gossip columnists or on the front pages where royally continues to fascinate. Recently it has been at this crucial period in a newspaper's year (paper orders to be reconsidered after the stop-start of Christmas and new year; astrology charts to be analysed; crash diets to be chosen) it is the competing Sunday papers which have taken the eye, arriving guns ablaze with revitalised magazines to greet the new year.

The *Mail on Sunday* has reigned for some time in what advertisers call the middle market, finally overtaking the sales of an abiding *Sunday Express* in January 1989, after its own anxious burst in the early 1980s. Much of that glory belongs to Stewart Steven, switched during a splendid night of long Associated knives last summer to the editorship of the *Evening Standard*. The new editor is Jonathan Holloway, and his discreet changes to the newspaper's style have seen further increases in sales last autumn.

In the 1980s the *Mail on Sunday's* supplement, *You* magazine, launched a year after the paper in October 1982, stole the glittering prizes regularly. It was innovative, funny, socially sharp, a



Take that: Eve Pollard, left, editor of the *Sunday Express* and Dee Nolan, *You* magazine editor

good read, and its ideas have been copied everywhere. Between 1986 and 1988 its editor was a certain E. Pollard.

Last year mutterings began to be overheard in Kensington's more discreet eateries. You had grown tired, formalistic, worse still, the new-fangled tabloid review sections (found in *The Independent on Sunday*, *Sunday Times*, *The Times* and *The Guardian*) with their ability to print on-the-run colour, were not only taking the style plaudits but bringing in lucrative colour advertising revenue.

When Sir David English stood down from the editorship of the *Daily Mail* to re-emerge as Associated's chief executive, Nick Gordon, editor of *You*, was a resolute victim. He was replaced by Dee Nolan, a denizen of the magazine world. A previous incar-

nation had seen her as editor of the short-lived *Metropolitan Homes*. Soon Ms Nolan was deep in the "the bunker", the equivalent of Chancellery's "pardon before the Budget". The lines were drawn for some "fight": Ms "Nolan" and English (believed to be desperate to prove he could make *The Mail on Sunday* sell more copies than even Stewart Steven had) devised a new look *You*. Meanwhile the *Sunday Express* magazine had announced an imminent relaunch.

Many are the words spoken of Eve Pollard, editor of the *Sunday Express* and spokesperson for its magazine. With the emphasis often focusing on matters extraneous to journalism it is easy to forget the minuscule she has performed with the

Sunday Express, turning around the broadsheet paper, which had lost its way, and its readers, with the striking tabloid redesign. Last year it was voted paper of the year. Nowadays it has the potential to attract a vital new young readership. According to the latest National Readership Survey figures, *You* magazine is both upmarket and has a younger readership, though Ms Pollard says the trade is changing. It needs to. Younger and more upmarket means a greater likelihood of advertiser support. Add to this Associated's preparedness to spend heavily on promotion — Ms Nolan calculates that £2 million has been invested in the new look *You* — and Ms Pollard's problems can be seen more clearly.

Ms Nolan's lucky, she admits. Guaranteed 50 pages a week, she

does not have to suffer the indignities of working with a magazine so thin that the porcelain adverbs are a highlight. Her redesign has been criticised for re-making *You* in the image of a woman's practical magazine with its predominant pastel textures, and the removal of old favourites such as *Headlines* and *Journalists*. She disagrees: "I defy anybody to look through and not find features suitable for men and women. People look where you have come from and make assumptions. They'd think the same about Eve. I am making both a half-beans-on-toast-at-home and a go-out-to-a-smart-restaurant magazine." It is all about "the conflicting life-styles of people in the 1990s," she says. Key words are: user-friendly, informative and practical.

"It is not a radical change of style," says Ms Pollard. "We have cut back our advertising to editorial ratio — that always put us at a disadvantage with *You*." The look is not as pioneering as, say, the new *Observer* magazine; nevertheless critics were predicting nothing less than *Hell* revisited. This has not happened. Yet.

"We've been a solid magazine. We need to tap the 1990s feel of immediacy. Pictures are important, in fact we are having a competition to find new photographic talent." Pollard holds up a spread with Terence Conran's Provence kitchen. "*Hell* would not have done this," she says. "There are no people in it."

There will also be a continuing commitment to long and serious pieces. Ms Pollard says. Recently these have included a feature on the children of the Mafia and a look at the life of the disgraced former Brazilian president Ferdinand Collor. Keywords are: pictures, serious journalism and aspiration.

The *Sunday Express* magazine, Ms Nolan says, is trapped within its 1980s notions of aspiration. "Fine," says Ms Pollard. "Aspiration may have become a dirty word, but go back to the dictionary: we all still want to do better." Ms Pollard talks of "*Metropolitan Homes* summer," of the absence of heavy-duty features in *You*. Ms Nolan talks of the *Express's* obsession with overseas. "We want to emphasise British people," she says.

But with staff seemingly ever interchangeable between the two titles, it will be no surprise if "surprising" crossovers take place. Already this year both magazines have featured Terence Conran, an inside look in the *White House*, and John Blashford Snek... the battle continues.

"When I took over *You*, I called for an Eve-volution," Ms Pollard says meaning gradual change of a proven winner. By this analogy Ms Nolan has just undertaken a Dee-volution. And that, as we know, has not always been successful in this country. Time will tell. Let's knock each other in seven years' time," says Ms Pollard. "Until then I'm just getting on with making my paper modern."

Dee Nolan already has a modern newspaper. Her concern is whether its modern *Mail* readers want to read her supplement.

Jabl

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Clive Soley's bill, introduced this week, would force newspapers to correct mistakes. Two journalists assess the issues

Why editors can be left to do the job

BRITISH newspapers are under siege. Sir David Calcutt proposed a statutory press tribunal. The National Heritage Committee conducts an inquiry into privacy and media intrusion. Clive Soley, MP, sponsors a bill to force editors to correct inaccuracies.

As Macaulay might have written, there is no spectacle so ridiculous as the British establishment in one of its periodic fits of anti-press hysteria.

Ridiculous, perhaps. Dangerous, certainly. If newspapers are to be ordered what to print, or suppress, then we have a form of censorship. However benign it may be at the outset, it will have the capacity to grow into a malignant tumour on our democracy.

The most immediate danger is Mr Soley's Freedom and Responsibility of the Press Bill, which has its second reading on Friday. The title oozes good intentions. (We all want to be free and responsible, don't we?) The content is obnoxious.

The bill would create an independent press authority appointed by the home secretary. Its powers would include:

- Seeking the presentation of news with due accuracy;
- Securing the free dissemination of news and information in the public interest and the promotion of professional and ethical standards;
- Investigating the distribution of newspapers and ownership and control of the media;
- Monitoring press freedom issues.

Anyone could complain about inaccuracies and Mr Soley's proposed authority would be able to order a correction, which must be given the same prominence as the offending report. Presumably this means that an allegedly inaccurate front-page story would merit a front-page correction, whether or not a phantasmagorical minister had resigned that day, or the government had ordered closure of every railway station in Britain, or Sunderland Civic Centre had gone up in flames. Failure to obey the order could result in an editor being brought before the High Court and fined or jailed for contempt. Press freedom?

Of course, editors have a natural and understandable antipathy to being ordered to print anything, especially by a government-appointed body. But they also have

strong practical objections to Mr Soley's ill-considered ideas.

Most press reports are not about what journalists say but about what others say. A journalist may report accurately what a speaker says at a public meeting. But the speaker's "facts" may be successfully challenged and a correction ordered. The speaker may then demand a right of reply, creating an endless prospect of correction and counter-correction. This is particularly likely in issues of public controversy such as abortion, hunting, capital punishment, local planning decisions, and pit closures. The bill, it should be noted, fails to provide a defence for a newspaper where the correction it has been told to print is defamatory. A lucrative field for lawyers, a nightmare for editors.

However strenuously he may deny it, I suspect that the main spring of Mr Soley's bill was a desire to see fairer political reporting stopped. It is designed to protect politicians. Therein lies its biggest danger.

It is not fanciful to believe that state-appointed press policemen would ultimately pose a threat to free speech, a spectre which may not loom large in Mr Soley's clouded vision but which should worry those who are more concerned about basic liberties than

Unthinking politicians will never cease their attempts to regulate newspapers

political comfort. Freedom gives licence to act badly as well as wisely. Censorship and control would cause greater evil than the occasional abuse of free speech.

Kevin MacKenzie, editor of *The Sun* and not everyone's favourite of the month, voiced the fears of most journalists when he told the National Heritage Committee last week: "I frankly believe you are hostile to the press and you are hostile to ordinary people knowing what is going on in public life."

Unthinking politicians — Tory as well as Labour — will never cease their attempts to regulate newspapers. A statutory tribunal set up to impose accuracy would inevitably find plausible reasons to extend



Reformers: Kelvin MacKenzie (left), Sir David Calcutt, and Clive Soley, all with different views on press freedom

control over content. Britain would be less free. As a result much misguided government, bureaucratic tyranny, consumer exploitation and criminal activity would go unreported.

There is no need for government regulation. The outspoken folk of Sunderland are not reluctant to tell me if my newspaper makes a mistake. Whenever I receive a valid complaint I publish a correction and an apology too if it is necessary.

In cases of conflict we have the self-regulatory Press Complaints Commission, belittled by Calcutt, scorned by Soley, but regarded as increasingly effective by those with no antipathy to state control. Newspapers are committed to publishing adverse adjudications. And there are signs that the message may be getting home. Perhaps scenting the smell of death for his bill, Mr Soley now suggests that he wants to shift the emphasis from controlling newspapers to protecting press freedom.

Every editor would welcome greater freedom of information, less secrecy, better-balanced libel laws. These are the great things. If Mr Soley campaigns for them, he will win wide support. But he should scrap his present measure and start afresh.

ANDREW HUGHES

The author is editor of the *Sunderland Echo* and a member of the Press Complaints Commission.

After the rhetoric of weeks past we are on the verge of a good old-fashioned British fudge. The government, suddenly alarmed at the implications of saddling newspapers with a privacy law, has let it be known that it has had a bright idea.

What this idea amounts to is a compromise: the press may continue to look after its own affairs without the threat of new privacy legislation as long as it strengthens its self-regulatory body, the Press Complaints Commission (PCC). There is no indication what strengthening means, of course, and no question of the government issuing instructions to the industry. The olive branch has been delivered with due discretion.

By chance, national newspaper editors met last week and agreed on a change to the composition of the PCC, a move which looks likely to placate the government. They decided that the PCC, which has nine press-linked members and seven lay members at present, should have a lay majority in future. Their assumption is that this would provide the necessary public credibility.

Whether this, along with an agreement to look again at the code of practice, will be strong enough to keep the cabinet at bay we shall have to see, but we can be forgiven for a sense of déjà vu. Does this change not remind us of

Judgment by their peers (in the press)

the PCC's predecessor, the much maligned Press Council, which Sir David Calcutt's committee recommended for history's dustbin?

That is certainly the verdict of former Press Council members, such as Pamela Ormerod and David Bleakley. Both stressed at the time of Calcutt's original enquiry that a lay majority was essential.

They served on a council with 18 press members and 18 lay members under an independent, and therefore lay, chairman. They remain convinced that this technically lay majority was the best arrangement. "We thought it protected the independence of the council in the eyes of people," Mrs Ormerod said. "If there were too few lay members it would not invite public confidence," said Mr Bleakley.

Their view is backed by the Press Council's former director, Ken Morgan. "If a voluntary self-

regulatory body is to be perceived as acceptable, enshrining the partnership between press and public if you will, then it cannot command confidence if there is not at least equality of membership."

If Calcutt seemed to miss the importance of this point when making his first report it is no surprise since many editors had become disillusioned with the Press Council simply because they disliked being rebuked by people they considered outsiders.

At that time Andreas Whitam Smith, the editor of *The Independent*, argued forcefully against the weight of lay membership and, second, was critical of the lack of seniority among the journalistic membership. He has not changed his mind. "Journalists don't respect the opinions of lay people," he said. "I believe editors should be judged only by their peers and not by Mr and Mrs Great and Good."

He based his view on his years

as a financial journalist, observing how smoothly self-regulation worked in the City. His preferred answer would be to maintain editors as PCC judges but to tighten the code of conduct.

Mr Whitam Smith is not alone. Stewart Steven, editor of the *London Evening Standard*, thinks the idea of boosting lay membership is "a terrible mistake". He said: "We will come to rue the day. You have to be in a profession to understand it well enough to make proper judgments on it. Only professionals know what is what and why certain things happen."

He points to self-regulation among doctors and lawyers as examples of successful internal policing of professions. But the former Press Council members and the current PCC chairman, Lord McGregor, of Durris, argue that there has never been a split between lay and press memberships over any controversy.

There is one positive sign of advance. "I was greatly encouraged," Lord McGregor said, "by the statement of Kelvin MacKenzie, *The Sun* editor, when he told the Commons select committee that he wanted to include the code of conduct in journalists' contracts. That would be a triumph for self-regulation."

ROY GREENSLADE

The author is a former editor of the *Daily Mirror*

Jabbing with the left again

Launched 80 years ago, *The New Statesman* — revamped this week — looks like a winner

This week, with a modest re-jig of its cover, contents and layout, *The New Statesman* begins its 80th birthday celebrations. Although it is starting a bit early — it, in fact, first burst upon the world on April 12, 1913 — the paper certainly has something to celebrate: the mere fact that it is still around. Only a couple of years ago few gave much for its chances of survival.

The hairy story of its escape from following *Punch* and *The Listener* into the elephant's graveyard of defunct weekly titles will one day fully deserve to be properly told.

The past 20 years have not been easy ones for the paper that used to be regarded as the weekly bible of the left-wing intelligentsia. Losing the ideological battle to the Thatcherite right-wing back in the 1970s, it has ever since faced a real struggle to keep its influence alive and its economy afloat.

As late as 1978 it regularly outsold its traditional rival, *The Spectator*, by a margin of more than 2-1. Today, with its last audited circulation figure of 22,613 it barely touches half of *The Spectator's* weekly sale of 41,512.

Under its current 38-year-old editor, Steve Platt, *The New Statesman* is, however, a much more sprightly product than it was a year or two ago. Good writing, notably from its newest staff recruit, Kirsty Milne, has started to reappear in its columns and its more provocative articles are now once again reported in national newspapers.

Platt, the eleventh editor in the paper's history (five have followed each other in swift



BUMPER NEW YEAR ISSUE: Religion as a virus of the mind; Neil Kinnock interview; The search for ET; A rough guide to posterity; European books; New Year's Dishonours List; Free NSS Heritage calendar

succession over the past 15 years) was one of the bonuses brought to the paper by its merger with *New Society* in 1988. But he displays no undue allegiance to his own original stable: the vigilant will notice on the masthead that week that the word "Society" has been relegated to a remote right-hand corner — whence it will, no doubt, eventually fall off, just as the words "and Nation" did after *The New Statesman's* amalgamation with that paper in 1991.

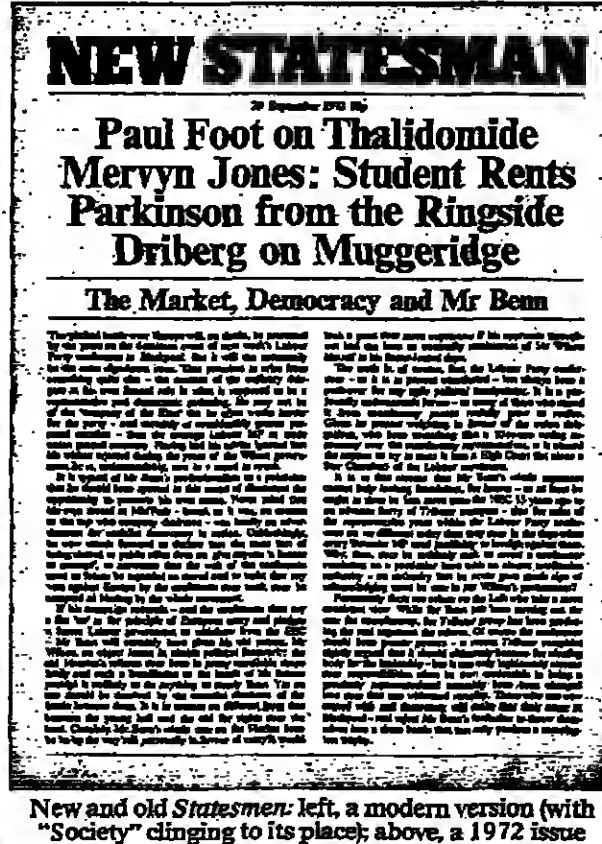
Only the "Staggers" has always been something of a cannibal in the journalistic jungle. Down the years it has eaten and gobbled up not just *The Nation* but the *Athenaeum*, the *Week-end Review* and, just over a year ago, *Maxim*. *Today* as well. But its carnivore's appetite has tended to bring in diminishing returns: a total of 600 subscriptions is

said to be the most it acquired from buying up the good will and address list of *Maxim* in 1991.

Even that, however, was important to the paper's survival, which at the time was under imminent threat from the brokers' men. In 1990-91 *The New Statesman* made a loss of £346,000, translated one year later into a £15,000 profit (both on a turnover of around £1.3 million a year). It was a turnaround achieved only by the sternest practice of Thatcherite economics — with the disappearance of nine staff posts and a bringing of nearly all the pre-print production in-house.

At *The New Statesman's* editorial offices in Shoreditch (apud named "Perseverance Works") the impression somehow lingers that the spirit of Samuel Smiles hovers not far overhead.

It probably needs to. For the left-wing paper which, until



New and old *Statesmen*: left, a modern version (with "Society" clinging to its place); above, a 1972 issue

the beginning of the 1980s owned the freehold of its relatively posh offices in Lincoln's Inn Fields as well as deriving a substantial unearned income from investments, has today no reserves left at all. Even the ruggedly spartan premises it now occupies — representing the second stage of its property trading down in a decade — no longer belong to it but are rented from the Rowntree Trust.

Predictably, the paper is seeking to capitalise on its anniversary year by appealing to its readers to underwrite a new shares issue intended to finance the development of the paper, but on this even Steve Platt displays a certain Fabian scepticism. "Having looked back at previous efforts at promotion, I'm rather cautious about all grand plans."

For the moment, Platt can probably afford to be content

with his achievement in bringing his paper back into the mainstream of British politics. Even Neil Kinnock is writing for it this week and over the past few months it has provided a platform for the Labour's modernising tendency.

From being little more than the house magazine of Charter 88 — which until a year or so ago even shared its offices — *The New Statesman* has reverted to its historic role of providing one of the main cockpits of debate for political controversy. It may not yet be required reading for politicians even of the left, but at least even its critics can no longer claim that it is irrelevant to the political process. If its face-lift works this week it should, with luck, even be able to look forward to celebrating its centenary in 2013.

ANTHONY HOWARD

The author was editor of *The New Statesman* from 1972-78.

One night's viewing that's best forgotten

Pity the poor programme maker who finds his show pitted against *Morse*

more than 18 million, which left thin pickings for the rest. There must be a temptation to bow to the inevitable and schedule expendable material



Channel challenge: John Thaw as the TV hero with ratings power

Nobody likes a killjoy, but for compelling personal reasons, I am very happy to see the back of *Inspector Morse*. It means, with any luck, that a million or more extra viewers might just bother to watch me negotiating a wobbly tandem around the back lanes of north Norfolk tonight, for the Channel 4 travel programme, *Travelog*.

It is hard to describe the sense of fulfilment you feel as a contributor to a television programme when you know that the entire nation will be watching something else, and ever since I made my modest little

film in the summer I have been praying that it would not have to compete with: a) another Gulf war; b) anything with David Jason in it; and, c) the last episode of *Inspector Morse*. There must be something in the power of positive prayer, because Saddam Hussein is behaving almost sanely for the moment, David Jason must be taking a holiday, and *Morse* caught his last killer a week before the edition of *Travelog* which features my painful perambulations.

This is not whimsy. *Travelog*, the only holiday show which caters for independent travellers rather than package tourists, generally attracts about 3.3 million viewers every Wednesday night at 8.30pm. For the past three weeks, however, while the final series of *Morse* was running, that figure dropped to about 2 million and programmes on BBC1 and 2 were similarly affected.

The sum is simple. About 30 million people watch television at evening peak time, and on quieter nights they are divided, give or take, quite evenly. BBC1 and ITV get about 10 million viewers each and the rest are shared — again more or less evenly — between BBC2 and Channel 4. The final episode of *Morse* on ITV, however, was watched by

best programmes you can and hope that your audience stays loyal, or that there are people out there who can't stand thrillers."

The BBC, too, denies taking "evasive action" against such blockbusters as *Morse* — in other words, using up programmes for which there would be no audience anyway. On such occasions, the BBC regularly insists that it has too much respect for performers to treat them as cannon-fodder, which is a diplomatic way of saying it would incur the undying wrath of anyone it treated in such a manner.

However, a glance at the two programmes that went out on BBC1 over the crucially important first hour of *Morse* last week is educative. Not only are *The Dick Emery Show* and *Stepie & Son* both extremely aged repeats, but their stars are all dead and in no position to complain.

As for BBC2, pity the entrants in last week's heat of the *Choir of the Year* competition, who came to judgment in the final ten minutes of the programme, between 8 and 8.10pm, just as the nation was settling down to the classical music and murderous complexities of the last-ever *Morse*. Still, at least their families will have stayed tuned. Probably.

PATRICK STODDART

In the Books pages tomorrow: Peter Ackroyd on a biography of Mrs Gaskell; the best of the spring fiction, including *The Long Night of White Chickens* by Francisco Goldman; and the relaunch of *London Magazine* reviewed

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THE POUND

US \$ 1.5388 (-0.0207)
German mark 2.4267 (-0.0244)
Exchange Index 79.5 (-0.9)
Bank of England office close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2835.7 (+83.8)
Dow Jones 3311.11 (+18.91)
Nikkei Av 10492.65 (+205.18)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%
3-month Interbank 6 1/4%
US Federal Funds 2 1/4%
3-month Treasury Bills 2.94-2.95%
Long Bond 7.22%

CURRENCIES

New York: London £1 1.5388 (-0.0207)
\$DM 1.5765 (-0.0244)
\$Swf 1.4540 (-0.0244)
\$Fr 5.3305 (-0.0244)
\$Yen 123.82 (-1.8933)
\$CDR 1.1122 (-0.0244)
London Foreign market close

GOLD

London Fixing (\$): AM 329.10 PM 330.90
Close 330.90-331.20
New York: Cornex 330.85-331.35

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 139.2 December (2.6%)
* Denotes index trading price



Just what the market ordered: a busy day for traders on the London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange yesterday

Shares soar as rate cut takes market by surprise

BY JANET BUSH
ECONOMICS
CORRESPONDENT

FINANCIAL markets were taken by surprise by the interest rate cut which came as strong speculation about lower rates was fading fast. Sterling, which had bounced by about two pence as rate cut hopes receded on Monday, fell sharply before stabilising after the Bank of England signalled the one-point cut in base rates to 6 per cent. The pound closed at about DM2.4230, while gilt futures rallied by more than a point, already discounting a further half-point cut in base rates.

The FT-SE 100 soared 63.8 points to 2,835.7. More than £13 billion was added to the value of Britain's publicly quoted companies.

John Major, the prime minister, and Norman Lamont,

The Treasury decided to move further on interest rates after reviewing a run of statistics that showed devaluation had made little impact on demand or output

Chancellor, agreed to cut rates at a routine meeting last Wednesday, coinciding with news of a fall in retail sales in December and a day before figures showing a fall in industrial output and a huge rise in the number of unemployed. The financial markets clamoured for a rate cut last week and sterling fell 10 pence on speculation that rates would have to be cut to reignite the economy. The decision to wait to announce the move appears to have been

partly because sterling was looking steadier and partly to avoid appearing to panic in the face of mounting negative news on the economy. In the new spirit of openness about policy-making, the Treasury released a statement explaining the reasons for the move. It cited a fall in M4 broad money supply and the weakness of bank lending; unit wage costs in manufacturing which fell in November and were 1 per cent higher in the latest three months against

a year ago; the fact that higher narrow money supply M0 had not been translated into stronger retail sales growth; the continuing fall in house prices despite successive interest rate cuts; and the relatively subdued pattern of industrial output prices despite sterling's devaluation.

There was widespread support from economists and in the City for the rate cut in view of the subdued state of activity. Professor David Currie, of the London Business School, the only one of the Treasury's seven-man panel of independent forecasters who had consistently expressed caution about lowering interest rates further, said he endorsed the cut because signs of recovery were still very tentative and

that "there is very little prospect of inflationary pressures for the time being with the economy flat on its back and unemployment rising". Professor Currie also said that he would not oppose a further cut in base rates if genuine signs of recovery did not start to accumulate.

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Gilts dealers caught off balance

BY OUR ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE government's decision to cut base rates yesterday provoked anger in the UK gilt-edged market, which today has to bid for £2.5 billion of bonds, the first slice of the huge funding programme needed to finance the public sector budget deficit.

Gilt-edged primary dealers said they believed it was unprecedented for base rates to be changed the day before an auction of bonds and that the timing risked losing the

goodwill of the market. One market maker estimated that the change might have lost primary dealers as much as £20 million.

Primary dealers, who bid at gilt auctions either for themselves or on behalf of institutional customers, often take out short positions before an auction which are then covered as the bids are rewarded. This helps to cut the risk of being left with huge amounts of bonds after the auction if

retail demand fails to emerge. The gilt market was holding a substantial short position yesterday morning, when the base rate change was announced, and gilt prices rallied strongly. That means primary dealers who were short of bonds will have to buy back today at a higher price, losing a great deal of money. The Bank of England's markets team is well aware of how the market positions itself

Continued on page 23, col 7

Another tablet for the sick economy

So there it is. John Major will do anything he can to help business out of recession — another point Howard, no problem — and the fearsome Eddie George, hailed as the Bank of England standard-bearer of cold austerity, is really a kindly old poodle. That was the true message of yesterday's base rate cut.

The welcome from industry was sincere. Business is generally a borrower, and the £700 million estimated reduction in costs over a full-year, understands the benefit to any business struggling to keep its head above water or its borrowing covenants intact. Yet the constant call for more interest-rate cuts is not really about that. It is a plea for help to stimulate demand in the economy, made to a doctor who has no cure in his bag.

With luck, more potential house buyers will be stirred into action, if not by cost then by gaining confidence that they can now buy a long-term investment at the bottom of the market. Timing and psychology are critical at turning points, outweighing the more certain impact on millions of older consumers with savings, who are having to cut spending. Apart from the net feel-good factor, there is little reason to think that one point off

rates, or even the hope of seriously cheap money after the Budget, will prove more energising than the 7 points already lopped off base rates over the past two years. In America, cheap money has been merely a palliative; the economy started to recover slowly and falteringly in its own good time.

In Britain, the prospect is similar. Statisticians may look back and say the recession bottomed last spring. The boost from devaluation was far more important, but has so far had disappointing effects. Exports take time to win. More seriously, good managers have been planning with courage and determination for the wrong set of circumstances.

The future lay with a high fixed exchange rate, dear money and zero inflation. The overwhelming priority was therefore to cut costs and cut costs again in a world where growth would be slow, competition more severe, and the emergency exits of inflation and devaluation sealed. Recession spread this mentality from sectors competing for exports, or against imports, to the



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

whole of business. Marginal businesses should be closed, product lines be slimmed, labour overheads minimised, investment concentrated on cost-cutting rather than expansion. A wise receiver advised ventures keen to avoid his embrace to run their businesses for cash and not hesitate to damage long-term prospects to secure short-term survival. Where competition was weak, regulators stepped in, obliging BT, for instance, to shed 50,000 jobs to save a bit on bills.

Unemployment, which remained above 1.5 million at the top of an unsustainable boom, is wrecking government finances, forcing the Chancellor of the Exchequer to crowd business out of long-term borrowing. It knocks demand doubly. Every redundancy loses business for companies down the road and makes another worker fear for his future.

Industry's planning has momentum and will not quickly change course. A generation of chief executives

is imbued with the brief to cut costs and avoid risk. Banks are going through the same exercise themselves and reflecting the mind-set back on their business customers. The stock market still marks up the shares of solvent companies that announce job cuts or "restructuring".

Ministers and industry's representatives are doing their best to lead the cheers for recovery. Yet managers trying to cope with low demand have been offered no convincing new brief. On macroeconomic policy, what does it mean if money rates are cut when the only targeted indicator is breaking through the top of its range? Is the Chancellor willing or able to dash for growth in either of his two Budgets, or will he raise prices, taxes and the cost of labour, either in March or just in time for Christmas?

To change the climate, many words must be eaten. The Confederation of British Industry and the employment and trade ministers should, for instance, plead with employers to hang on to labour over the next 18 months and even lambast those who cut back, not easy for a government planning to sack 33,000 miners just after devaluation. Merely offering the addict another interest rate pill is too easy.

Small firms' complaints against banks dismissed

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE Bank of England has dismissed allegations that high street banks are failing to pass on interest rate cuts to small business customers. Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, announced the findings of a Bank report into business lending margins, and the way banks treat small business customers, to MPs yesterday.

The investigation was prompted by allegations that the banks have widened their margins as interest rates have come down, failing to pass on the benefits to customers.

Mr Lamont said that, although the broad picture on interest rate margins was reassuring, "there is no doubt that many small businesses remain dissatisfied with their banks".

He held out an olive branch to small firms with the announcement that the powers of the Banking Ombudsman would be widened to cover businesses with turnovers of less than £1 million. That means small firms will be able to take complaints about their treatment by the banks to the ombudsman.

The report shows that six out of ten customers seem to have received the full benefit of the 4.5 per cent reduction in base rates between June 1991 and the completion of the survey. Almost one in ten more saw margins narrow.

The remaining 30 per cent of small business customers, however, experienced an increase in margins. The Bank said that half of that 30 per cent experienced margin increases of 0.5 per cent or less.

The report is based on the responses of the seven major banks involved in lending to small businesses: Barclays, NatWest, Lloyds, Midland, TSB, Bank of Scotland and Royal Bank of Scotland. These

seven account for 80 per cent of the market. The Bank found no evidence that any bank sought to withdraw from, or significantly reduce its involvement in, small business lending.

The report shows that two thirds of small business accounts are in credit; that the number of such accounts fell by 7 per cent, to 4.1 million, between June 1991 and the completion of the survey; that the number of accounts in debit has fallen by 10 per cent, and that the total value of lending has fallen by 3 per cent.

Publication of the report was welcomed by the banks, but attacked by action groups, the Institute of Directors and the Labour party.

The Forum of Private Business, which represents more than 20,000 small companies, welcomed the report. A spokesman said: "It's good we've got rid of another red herring which has been dogging the banking industry for the last two years. A lot of damage has been caused by spurious and misleading comments made by people who should have known better."

Sir Nicholas Goodison, president of the British Banking Association, lobbied against plans to extend the ombudsman scheme to cover small businesses. "We are pleased," he said yesterday, "that this survey again refutes the allegation that banks have not passed on interest rate cuts."

Derek Wanless, chief executive of NatWest, said: "It is important that commercial lending decisions remain a matter for agreement between banks and their customers."

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Eagle Star switch leaves surveyors in turmoil

By Sarah Baginall

CHARTERED surveyors have been thrown into confusion as a result of the unexpected move by Eagle Star, the insurance subsidiary of BAT Industries, to switch from defendant to claimant and join Bank Bruxelles Lambert in a legal action centring on the validity of mortgage indemnity policies on £300 million of commercial loans.

The switch by Eagle Star severely weakens the cases of the other four defendants, including Allied Dunbar, another BAT subsidiary. It has joined BBL in taking action against Lewis & Tucker and John D Wood Commercial, two firms of valuers who are alleged to have negligently overvalued six properties against which the loans were made. The claim against the firms, coupled with BBL's separate action against Allied Dunbar and Maurice Markovits, a former financial consultant with Allied Dunbar and broker for the policies, total £200 million.

BBL's total claim has not been reduced despite an out-of-court settlement with Eagle Star that recoups up to £87.5 million of the bank's losses.

The settlement does, however, force the property valuers to reassess their cases. This is because the burden of proving certain facts has been shifted

from Eagle Star to them and they were said to be relying heavily on the insurer, as the first defendant, to prove points that they could then adopt. Eagle Star has also agreed, as part of the settlement, not to pass on any evidence to the other defendants, and also to allow Hillier Parker, its expert valuation witness, to be used jointly in the case.

Mr Justice Phillips will hear representations from all the parties tomorrow morning to discuss the necessary amendments to the case. One of the changes is that Eagle Star has dropped one of its claims against Lewis & Tucker because of overlap with BBL. Lewis & Tucker valued three of the six properties while John D Wood Commercial valued the other three and provided a second valuation on a fourth.

If the claimants are successful, under the terms of the settlement between Eagle Star and BBL, the first £35 million of payments will go BBL with any excess being shared equally. If less than £35 million is recovered Eagle Star will pay half of the shortfall.

A proportion of any recoveries made by BBL will be passed to a number of other banks. BBL syndicated 54 per cent of the £308 million of loans, retaining the other £142 million on its own book.



Top team: Lord Hanson, centre, with executives David Clarke, left, and Derek Bonham

Hanson promises tough year

LORD Hanson told the group's annual meeting yesterday that 1993 would be a tough year. He believed that there would be a "positive recovery" in the American and British economies, but could not say when that might happen. However, he added that the group was seeing improved signs of orders.

Lord Hanson would not comment on a shareholder's question about whether the group would be interested in all or part of British Col. He

said the government was still drawing up its plans and it would be premature to comment. As for other acquisition opportunities, he said the group always looked at every opportunity. Hanson yesterday announced that it had finalised its coal-for-gold swap with Santa Fe Pacific Minerals, part of the American railroads and energy group, whereby Hanson exchanges the gold assets of Gold Fields Mining for coal and quarry assets of Santa Fe. Hanson

acquired GFMC, which has tangible net assets of \$150 million, when it took over Consolidated Gold Fields in 1989. GFMC made a \$52 million pre-tax profit on sales of \$189 million in the year ended September 1992.

Assets acquired by Hanson include coal operations in New Mexico with reserves of 700 million tons, and six aggregate quarries in the western and southwestern states.

City Diary, page 25

Akers to give up top IBM position

FROM PHILIP ROBINSON IN NEW YORK

JOHN Akers announced last night that he was standing down as chief executive of IBM. The company lost almost \$5 billion last year, the worst corporate loss on record.

Mr Akers's decision accompanied a 55 per cent cut in the computer company's dividend, once regarded as among the safest on Wall Street. IBM has suffered from a sharp slowdown in sales of mainframe computers and from competition by smaller personal computer makers.

Aged 58, Mr Akers is due to retire at the end of 1994. He has been with the company for almost 30 years, and chairman and chief executive for eight of them. He will be replaced as chief executive within 90 days and a decision will then be taken on his position as chairman.

Frank Metz, 59, the finance director, is also departing, to be replaced by Paul Rizzo, who has been retired for five years.

Large shareholders are believed to have played a significant part in the shake-up. Days before IBM announced a 1992 loss of \$4.97 billion, California Public Employees Retirement System, one of the biggest investing institutions and an outspoken advocate of shareholder power, said it would not support re-election of the board if the pace of change at IBM did not quicken.

Wall Street applauded the changes yesterday, lifting IBM's stock market value by almost \$2 billion, to \$30 billion.

Green of Carlton wins 84% pay package rise

MICHAEL Green, chairman and founder of Carlton Communications, saw his pay package rise by 84 per cent to £520,000 last year, according to the company's annual report. Carlton, which took over the London weekday TV franchise from Thames on January 1, said that Mr Green was paid a basic salary of £400,000 with a £120,000 performance-related bonus. His basic pay rose by 44 per cent from £278,000 in 1991.

The remuneration committee said it established an incentive scheme that gave a bonus of 30 per cent of salary in the year to end-September 1992. It added that Mr Green's salary had failed to recognise his "significant contribution" to the company and the progress that Carlton made last year.

Boost for Humber-side

MORE than £18 million is to be invested in Humber-side's Immingham oil terminals by Associated British Ports and Conoco. ABP, which will spend about £14 million on a third tanker berth, has awarded the first phase of the project to Amec Civil Engineering. Conoco will provide the pipelines and pumping systems. The terminal handles products from Conoco's refinery at South Killingholme and from the nearby Lindsey oil refinery, owned jointly by Total Oil and Fina. The new berth is expected to come into operation in April.

Shake-up at Cranbrook

CRANBROOK Electronic Holdings has agreed a refinancing plan that gives a leading pension fund 99 per cent ownership of the group. Shares in the company will be taken off the Unlisted Securities Market on February 18. The Merchant Bankers Pension Fund has agreed to advance loans to Cranbrook in return for shares. The fund approached National Westminster in December when the bank was considering whether to appoint receivers. Cranbrook reported losses before tax in the three financial years up to September 1991.

Setback for DAF

DAF failed to come up with a wide-ranging financial restructuring plan, which was scheduled to be presented yesterday. Shares in the loss-making Dutch company, which makes lorries and vans in Britain, The Netherlands and Belgium, had been suspended on Monday, ahead of the planned announcement. The Dutch and Belgian governments are still expected to inject new capital into the company. DAF said that consultations on the restructuring "will continue for longer than was originally foreseen".

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Rate cut answers industry's cries

Debt costs will fall by up to £1bn

By Philip Bassett and Ross Tremen

BRITISH business warmly welcomed the base rate cut, for which industry has been clamouring for months. Business leaders called on the government to maintain economic stability to allow for investment and eventually a slow-down in unemployment.

But the welcome extended to the rate cut was tempered by the fact that most companies had been expecting a reduction for a while, and had largely planned it into their operating forecasts for the early part of the year. Many business leaders believe the government should have been bolder on interest rates at the time of the Autumn Statement. Privately, they are wondering if the failure to make a two-point cut then will raise pressure for a further rate cut in the March budget.

Industry reacted well to the prospect of a saving of up to £1 billion in interest payments. But what it now wants is a period of stability to allow consumers and companies to regain real confidence. Sir Michael Angus, president of the Confederation of British Industry, said: "We are delighted with this cut in interest rates, which we have been pressing for for some time. This is one more step along the road toward economic recovery."

Christopher Stewart-Smith, president of the British Chambers of Commerce, agreed. "Lower interest rates are still being cited by 70 per cent of businesses as the most important factor to improve business prospects. This will do much to bolster business and consumer confidence and is the right step at the right time to ensure a fragile recovery."

Sir Denis Henderson, chairman of ICI, said: "It should improve the investment climate and will be helpful to British industry in its efforts to recover."

For small businesses, Stan Mendham, chief executive of the Forum of Private Business, thought the cut would increase the chances of an early economic recovery, and said: "This will give small firms more confidence to borrow as demand in the economy

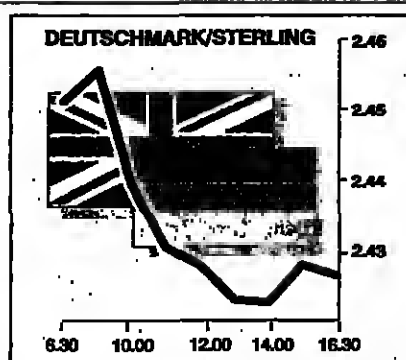
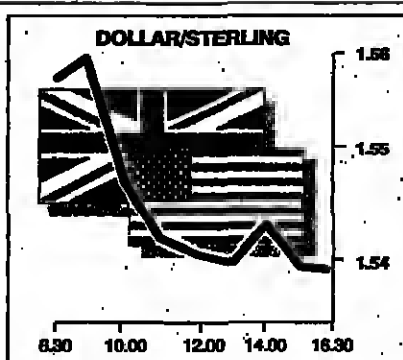
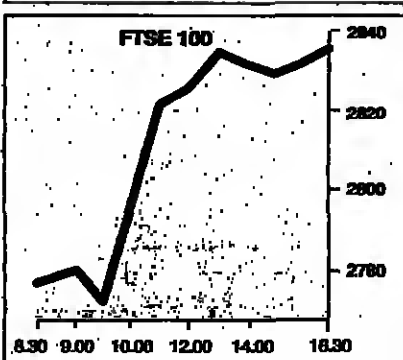
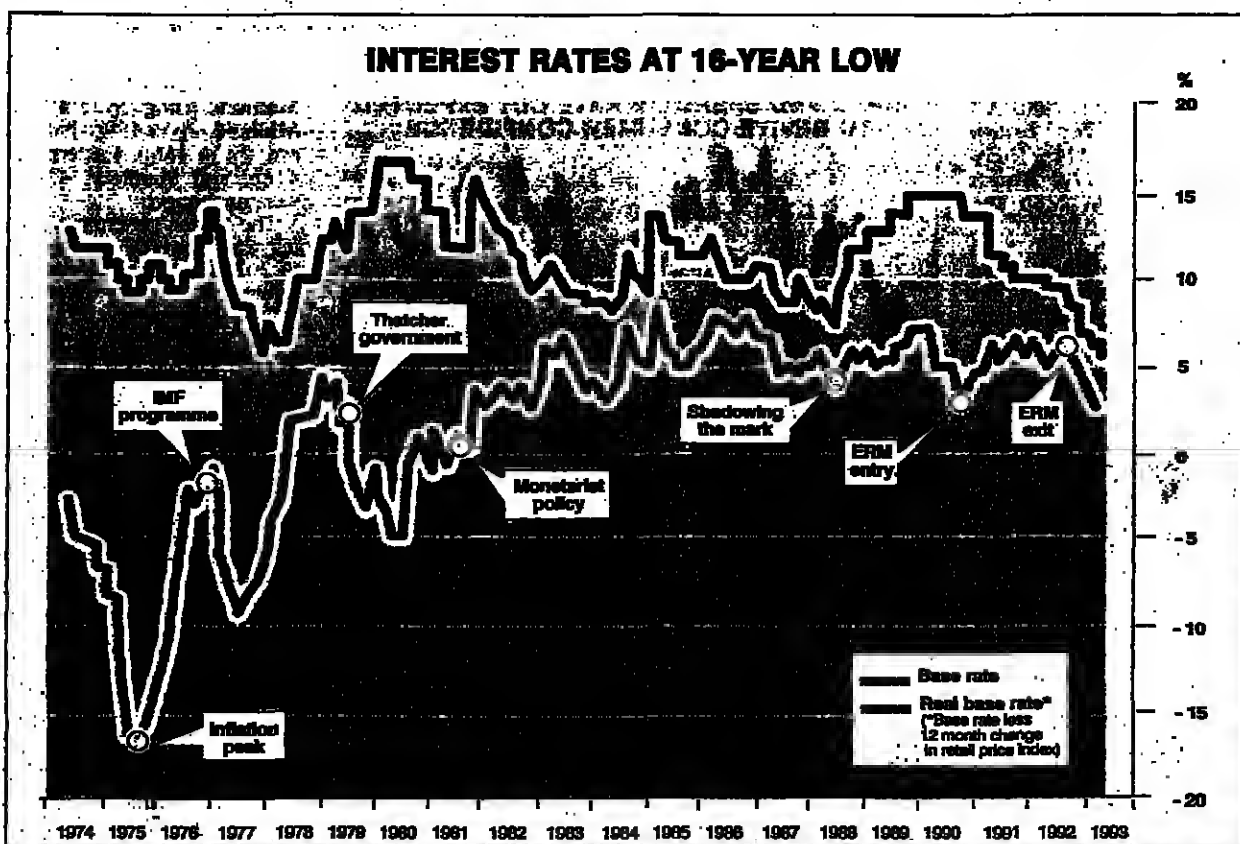
risks." Ian Handford, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses policy unit, said: "This cut is an added incentive to businesses and an encouragement to consumers. Business expansion, coupled with consumer confidence, must be the key to economic recovery and the Chancellor is today taking the right action."

But while welcoming the cut, the Institute of Directors struck a cautious note. Ann Robinson, IoD policy head, said: "There is a danger that a full point off the base rate at this stage may destabilise the exchange rate. This would have an adverse effect on input prices, raising the cost of goods in an already weak domestic market, and the Chancellor must keep an eye on all the indicators."

Unions were also sceptical. Norman Willis, TUC general secretary, said: "This cut, whilst welcome, will not be enough on its own to generate recovery. It must be backed up by a major expansion in public investment targeted on education and training, an emergency jobs package and infrastructure renewal."

As well as welcoming the cut, the Engineering Employers' Federation also cautioned that even at 6 per cent, base rates were still high compared to inflation. Engineering companies said, too, that interest rate cuts alone would not promote sustained economic recovery. The government had to ensure that the rate cut did not merely lead to higher consumer spending that would simply worsen the "fundamental" problem of the balance of payments deficit.

Many companies and business organisations will still be looking to the government for further assistance in the budget. David Gent, director-general of the Retail Motor Industry Federation, said: "It is clear that the government recognises the need to reinforce the signs of recovery in the economy. It is hoped that they will also recognise the need to avoid significant rises in this year's spring budget and that speculation about such increases should cease immediately."



Builders look for further stimuli

By Martin Flanagan

LEADING builders, property companies and City analysts welcomed the interest rate reduction, but views were mixed on the immediate significance to those sectors.

Barrat Developments welcomed the news but said the government should also abolish stamp duty for good and raise mortgage interest relief to at least 60,000. Frank Barrat, Barrat's chief executive, said: "These measures would not only ensure sustained recovery in the housing market, but would also provide a powerful stimulus for the economy as a whole."

Duncan Davidson, chairman of Persimmon, another housebuilder, was "delighted". He said it showed the Treasury had finally accepted that further measures were needed to get things moving. "Now and early spring is always a very good time to buy houses, and this will certainly help," he said.

However, Tarmac, the UK's biggest housebuilder, said although the cut was welcome, some caution was still needed. A spokesman said interest rates were only one of the factors inhibiting people from moving. Job insecurity in a

climate of burgeoning unemployment remained a shadow over the sector.

Tarmac is planning to build 7,000 homes in 1993 compared with 8,200 last year and felt a sustained improvement in sentiment among homebuyers would only occur when interest rate cuts filtered through to industry and people became less uncertain about keeping their jobs.

The City, meanwhile, takes the view that the depressed property market is unlikely to see material recovery through the cut. This is because many property groups have a large

proportion of their borrowings on fixed rather than variable interest rates.

One analyst said the big overhang of empty property meant that, initially, any base rate initiatives would be slow to feed through to the sector. Sir Nigel Mobbs, chairman of Slough Estates, said nearly all his group's funding was on fixed interest terms, and that the beneficial effect for property companies of yesterday's move would probably be limited to improving general sentiment and encouraging long-term business investment programmes.

'Green budget' shows need for £6bn tax hike

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

THE government has no choice but to raise taxes significantly this year — perhaps by as much as £6 billion — if the public sector budget deficit is not to become unsustainable. So says the joint pre-budget submission by the Institute of Fiscal Studies and Goldman Sachs, which have a reputation for being closely listened to by the Treasury.

In their "green budget" report, they predict that the public sector borrowing requirement will reach £54 billion in fiscal 1993-4, £10 billion more than the government forecast in the Autumn Statement. That would amount to 8.5 per cent of gross domestic product, the highest level, exceeding privatisation proceeds, since 1975 and 1976, when the International Monetary Fund was called in to bail Britain out.

The report said that, even if the economy were to grow at 3 per cent a year, the PSBR would still be close to £50 billion in 1996-7 without tax increases or spending cuts. It also noted that there is little chance that the economy could grow more than 3 per cent a year without causing other problems, notably a

balance of payments crisis as the revived British consumer sucked in imports.

Andrew Dilnot, director of the IFS, believed, before yesterday's base rate cut to 6 per cent, that the government would avoid any major fiscal tightening in its March budget and announce major tax increases in its December budget when the economic recovery should be well underway. However, that timetable timing may change after the latest base rates cut, which came far earlier than most economists had expected.

Mr Dilnot said: "The government might be trying to boost confidence now and encourage the recovery by the time of the Budget. If they engineer a good enough feeling by March, they could then go for tax increases earlier." The December option would still be clear if the recovery proved weaker.

The report said that the obvious targets for tax increases are a widening of the VAT base and increases in National Insurance contributions. In the longer term, the IFS and Goldman Sachs suggested further tendering out of public services.

Rate cut catches gilts dealers off balance

Continued from page 21

before an auction, and the fact that it signalled a base rate cut on the day before the sale, when maximum damage would be inflicted on primary dealers, even suggested to some that the Bank had little choice about the timing of the announcement.

A Bank of England official said that the size and timing of the rate cut was a Treasury decision.

"The authorities could easily have waited until Thursday or Friday, when the auction was over," said a senior executive at a leading firm of market makers.

"This is an example of bad management which is not at all typical of the Bank of England, which understands how to handle the gilt market smoothly. My guess is that the

Bank had little control over the timing." The rally in the gilt market yesterday means that the government will be able to complete this part of its financing needs more cheaply but there was considerable nervousness last night that higher prices would deter some investors. The last two auctions have attracted bids of only 14 times the amount on offer, which gives only a small margin for error.

The auction today is for £2.5 billion of gilts maturing in 2007. The sale is partly paid, with about 30 per cent to be paid in April, the beginning of the next fiscal year. It is estimated that the government needs to sell £1 billion of gilts every week of the new fiscal year.

British funds, page 24

Wessex taps into waste deal

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

WESSEX Water is tapping shareholders in an £80 million rights issue. The call forms part of a complex £145 million cash-raising package that will enable its half-owned waste management subsidiary to buy the landfill and other waste operations of NRC, the transport group.

The underwritten rights is only the second such among the big privatisation issues of the middle to late 1980s. Wessex, with Waste Management International, its joint venture partner, is paying £113 million for the NRC business, which trades under the Waste Management Limited name.

Under the terms of the cash call, Wessex, one of the ten large water companies in England and Wales sold off in 1989, will issue its partner shares and options that will increase the latter's holding in Wessex from about 15 per cent to 20 per cent, or 23 per

cent once all the options are exercised. But the additional shares will neither carry voting rights until 1995 nor the expiry of the "golden share" arrangements that were put in place on privatisation and limit any single holder to less than 15 per cent.

Existing Wessex shareholders



Hood: new orbit

are being asked to take one new share for every six held — at 480p against an opening market price yesterday of 577p. The Wessex price fell on the news, ending the day at 566p.

Nicholas Hood, the chairman, said of the deal: "This is moving Wessex into a different orbit." "The company saw a 'window of opportunity' because the water industry regulator reviewing price controls was apparently moving towards regulation of profits rather than prices. Such a policy, some observers believe, would put a premium on companies that diversify out of their core regulated sector of water distribution."

Under the deal, Wessex will be left with £88 million available for new investment. The total payable by Wessex towards the deal is £56.5 million.

Timesup, page 25

Euro Disney suffers loss of Fr492m

By Wolfgang Münchau

EURO Disney, the company that operates the Disney theme park near Paris, announced a net loss of Fr492 million for its first quarter of the fiscal year ending December.

The company, 49 per cent owned by the Walt Disney Corporation, said that operating revenue was Fr944 million during this period. Euro Disney blamed the loss on seasonally low attendances.

At the present rate of attendances, the company is on course to miss its target of 11 million visitors in the first year.

The park, which opened last April, has attracted 8.7 million visitors.

Euro Disney also blamed fixed charges and continued high interest rates, but noted encouraging results during Christmas.

With effect from the close of business on Tuesday 26th January 1993 and until further notice, TSB Base Rate is decreased from 7.0% p.a. to 6.0% p.a.

All facilities (including regulated consumer credit agreements) with a rate of interest linked to TSB Base Rate will be varied accordingly.



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Barclays Bank Trust Company Limited

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26th January 1993 their Base Rate

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The CO-OPERATIVE BANK

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With effect from close of business on Tuesday, 26th January 1993, Co-operative Bank Base Rate changes from 7.00% p.a. to 6.00% p.a.

CO-OPERATIVE BANK PLC.

PART OF THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

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National Westminster Bank Business Accounts Interest Rates

National Westminster Bank announces the following interest rates, effective from 27th January 1993:

SOLICITORS RESERVE ACCOUNT		
Base Interest rate	Minimum	Gross Compounded Annual Rate
4.250%	Instant Access — No minimum deposit/withdrawal	4.32%
4.125%	£250,000 and above	4.19%
3.875%	£100,000 — £249,999	3.93%
3.125%	£25,000 — £99,999	3.16%
1.375%	£2,000 — £24,999	1.38%
	£500 — £1,999	

Where appropriate, Base Rate will be deducted from interest credited or paid (which may be restricted by residence non-residents). Subject to the required registration fees, interest will be paid gross.

Gross Compounded Annual Rate is the true annual return on your savings if the interest payments are reinvested in the account.

Nat West Bank Plc
41 Lombury London EC2P 2SP

ANZ Grindlays Base Rate

ANZ Grindlays Bank plc announces that its base rate has changed from 7% p.a. to 6% p.a. with effect from close of business 26th January 1993.

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Private Banking

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BASE RATE

With effect from Tuesday 26th January 1993 Coutts & Co have reduced their Base Rate from 7% to 6% per annum.



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440 Strand, London WC2R 0QS

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...TIME

...TIME

Foundations laid for recovery and return of confidence

Industrialists feel the latest rate cut has been made on need rather than in the heat of economic crisis, but will it work? Ross Tieman reports

There is an argument which says that business leaders are so chastened after calling a recovery that they are in danger of missing the real thing when it happens. By the same token, the government and its friends have been so keen to spot recovery, critics say, that they blundered themselves to on-going recession. The surprise one-point cut in bank base rates, to 6 per cent, has at last begun to clarify the issue.

Industrialists took heart, not just from the prospect of saving, collectively, some £700 million to £1 billion in interest payments. Rather, they were encouraged that the cut was announced after the Treasury had examined a clutch of economic statistics and business survey results. At last, they reasoned, economic decisions are being taken on the basis of need, free from the air of crisis that surrounded economic policy making last autumn.

But there was also a widening belief that levels of interest rates, inflation and sterling have at last set the scene for an unexciting, but steady recovery. "I think industry as a whole has a fighting chance now," Ian McKenzie, chief executive of Blue Circle Industries, the cement to boilers group, said.

The caution implicit in Mr McKenzie's words reflects the depth and duration of the recession, and the scale of damage to British industry. Last year, according to Trade Indemnity, the credit insurer, about 7,525 mature businesses ceased trading. A similar number disappeared in 1991. Since unemployment began to climb in April, 1990, 1.37 million more workless people have joined the dole queues, while fear of unemployment has combined with the meltdown in the housing market to turn the free-spending consumer of yesterday into hoarders.

The economic roller-coaster of the past few years has crippled companies in two ways. First, it has eroded the spending power of consumers, a large chunk of industry's market. Second, it has hammered firms' finances and economies of scale. Debts have had to be repaid at very high real (inflation-adjusted) rates of interest, and companies have made significant cuts in capacity and employment to bring their costs back in line with reduced sales.

For the best part of two years, a large part of British industry has been seized by a culture of contraction. Even today, surveys show, four-fifths of United Kingdom manufacturers have surplus capacity. Changing the philosophical outlook of a business case brutalised by the battle for survival will take months or years. And yet, at long last, there is sense among the vanguard of business leaders that the tide is turning. Richard Brown, policy director at the British Chambers of Commerce and overseer of the chambers' business



Building for the future: people are looking for stability—house prices not going down or rates up

activity surveys, said: "I think there are already signs of recovery, but they are very fragile and will need nurturing."

The cut in interest rates, he said, "will do a lot to bolster consumer confidence". The critical question, of course, is whether it will do enough. And whether the currency market, fearful of falling returns to holders of sterling when Britain's economy has developed a systemic balance of payments deficit, will allow the lower rate to stick without a run on the pound which will force the Chancellor, Norman Lamont, to backtrack.

Above all, say business leaders, Mr Lamont must engineer a period of stability in which consumers and company chairmen can regain the confidence to make investment decisions.

Richard Addick, chairman of Getinge, Wimpsey's, houses division, said: "The real issue is that everybody is looking for stability: in unemployment not going up; house prices not going down; in interest rates that will not go up and that the Chancellor will not start talking about a need to raise interest rates because of rising inflation."

For the next few days, even weeks, a lot of business leaders are going to be holding their breath. The Institute of Directors, hawkish as ever, sounded a warning: "There is a danger that a full point off the base rate at this stage may destabilise the exchange rate." But most business organisations, from the

increasingly influential Confederation of British Industry to the Engineering Employers' Federation, had already pencilled interest rates of 6 per cent in to their economic forecasts for 1993.

Because interest rate cuts have until recently lagged the slowdown in inflation, companies and individuals have, in practice, been paying through the nose for borrowed money. According to Ian Thompson, economics adviser to the EEF, what really matters is the ratio between base rates, at 6 per cent, and inflation rates, which, with any luck, should average about 4 per cent in the coming 12 months. Certainly, the gap between base rates and underlying inflation over the past year, at 3.7 per cent, is the smallest since 1979.

Given the level of interest rates now achieved, economic growth during 1993 is now forecast by the CBI to reach 0.7 per cent. That is less gloomy than it sounds, because a slow start is expected to turn into an accelerating rate of industrial output as the year wears on. But this recovery will not be, must not be, like its predecessors. In the past, consumer demand and construction have pioneered the recovery. If that happens now, business leaders say, we face disaster.

"There is a structural problem in the economy and if recovery is led by consumer spending it is not going to last

very long because we are not going to have the productive capacity to meet the demand," Mr Thompson said. "Any lasting recovery has got to be led by exports and investment, especially investment in companies manufacturing for export."

There is scope for investment. One fifth of companies say their capacity is inadequate. Others, such as United Engineering Steels, run by Graham Mackenzie, president of the EEF, wish to spend money on quality and efficiency to stay ahead of the competition. Modest investments are in progress all over the country.

While big business substitutes capital for labour, the task of arresting the horrifying rise in unemployment, and creating new jobs, will fall, as it did at the end of the last recession, to small businesses. Can they now take up the baton? A survey in the final quarter of last year, by the Forum of Private Business, found that low turnover was the most common problem faced by members, with the cost of borrowing in second place. Typically, small businesses face borrowing costs four percentage points or more above base rates. Even today, many will be paying 10 per cent or more for their money. Industry's path out of recession remains difficult. But according to Mr Mackenzie: "All the signals are now there. Most of the omens are now right for some sort of recovery." Let us hope so.

Further into a corner

THERE was more than a hint of panic in yesterday's cut in base rates and the markets sensed it. Share prices and short-dated gilts leapt as they do when caught out by government policy changes. The reaction in long-dated issues was more muted as fears grow about inflationary pressures and the sustainability of current rates.

The sharp rise in short gilt prices means that the yield curve is now steeper than it has been for more than a decade, with a 3 per cent spread between short and long maturities. The short end of the market clearly expects further rate cuts, with a reduction to 5 per cent on Budget day being a favourite bet in the market. At the longer end, a 20-year yield of almost 9 per cent shows that investors believe inflationary pressures will return.

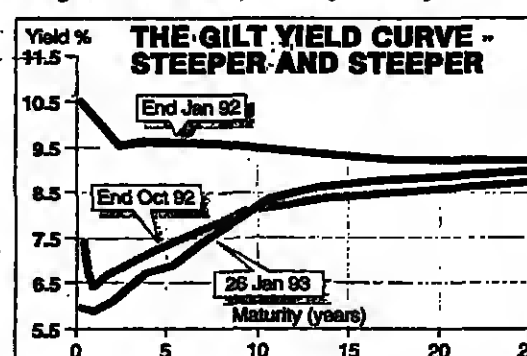
The Treasury seems to have been spooked into cutting rates following the recent barrage of gloomy economic data. In doing so, it has effectively abandoned M0 as an indicator, since it inconveniently showed a strong growth in the money supply and contrasted with poor retail sales figures. M0 was a minor casualty in the battle to breathe some life back into the economy. The government needs to show tangible signs of recovery to protect sterling and help it sell £1 billion of gilts a week. Inflationary fears do not rule out a further rally in long-dated issues. The yield curve is now almost steep enough to tempt banks and institutions to take a

profit on borrowing short and lending long regardless of fundamentals, as they have in America in the past two years. That does not alter the market's reticence on chasing prices.

At least the equity market was not burdened with such doubts. In the past two weeks, equities have been beset by worries that the recovery was taking longer than expected and, perversely, that additional rate cuts were unlikely. The rate cut stilled those worries, giving a 63 point leap in the FT-SE 100 index. Equity prices are, however, discounting a lot of earnings recovery and the market will have difficulty sustaining a new bull run.

The government may congratulate itself with the timing of the rate cut ahead of today's £2.5 billion gilt auction; dealers say it has had a lukewarm reception from British institutions, which do not appreciate the 15 year maturity. The rate cut will reduce funding costs and may encourage more bids from overseas since it removes some of the short-term uncertainty over sterling. The Bank should, however, be concerned about the goodwill it has lost among gilt marketmakers whose books were short ahead of the auction. They are likely to be more cautious in future which could restrict liquidity when the Bank needs it most.

Mr Lamont cannot cut rates every time the Bank has to raise £2.5 billion. Each cut paints the government further into a corner. Soon, the only way rates will be able to go is up.



Wessex Water

WESSEX Water's £80 million cash call follows a trail that has so far been trodden only by British Aerospace among the big privatisation stocks. That is a parallel that the company's advisers are understandably keen to avoid.

Wessex has raised £88 million more than was needed to do yesterday's deal, explaining that the timing may never be better for cash-raising by the water sector relative to the rest of the stock market. It is clear where the company thinks its share price is heading.

In its search, Wessex looked at many waste management companies and concluded that "prices" were unreasonable. Nevertheless, its joint venture has amassed a £176 million war chest for expansion, probably by acquisition, which suggests that those prices are expected to fall. If so, shareholders should question the cost of the NFC business, bought on a historic earnings multiple in the high 30s that can be justified only by rapid expansion.

The acquisition will dilute earnings for at least three years. Thereafter, Wessex should begin to see benefits

from the considerable assets it is buying, including Britain's second-largest land bank for waste filling. Earnings benefits may be outweighed by downward pressure on shares in the sector, now that investors have discovered that water companies are as prone as any other to tap shareholders for cash when they can get away with it.

Elf Aquitaine

THE market had been expecting poor figures from Elf Aquitaine. Few predicted such a collapse in operating profit in its three core divisions during the second half. Chemicals made just Fr2.2 billion of the year's Fr1.5 billion in the past six months, while the two oil divisions — exploration and production, and refining and marketing — produced only a third of second-half operating profit.

The company was quick to defend itself. Lower crude oil prices, down from an average of \$20 to \$19.32 per barrel, a weak dollar, overcapacity in refining, and falling chemicals prices were all cited. The fall remains disturbing.

Gearing has risen from 31 per cent to 37 per cent, prompting a cut in capital expenditure. With spending ex-

ceeding cash flow in 1992, this is welcome. Elf has been too keen to throw its money around of late, as last week's acquisition of Yves Saint Laurent shows. Elf says it faces 1993 "with extreme caution". That seems wise.

Budgens

RECOVERY in corporate profitability may be around the corner, but dividend growth could be further away, as the example of Budgens shows.

Despite the new management's success in increasing profits by 37 per cent, to £4.6 million, it has decided to omit an interim dividend, with good reason. A reasonable dividend of 0.75p would have cost £1.1 million, or almost half the group's retained profits.

Budgens needs this cushion, since it continues to suffer sales attrition from store openings by rivals. Management has already backtracked on a target of a 5 per cent margin by April 1994.

Given the circumstances, the company is brave to predict that it will resume dividend payments at the end of the year. Its shares look dear on a prospective p/e of 14.4, similar to its more successful rival Kwik Save.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Short, sharp shock

LORD Hanson's secret of how to organise, run, and execute a snappy annual meeting is out. Hanson's adoring shareholders yesterday filled the Barbican Centre and their noble Lord was in his best Sunday night at the London Palladium mood. His banter was light hearted, and — surprise, surprise — shareholders' questions were short, sharp and generally confined to a single sentence. "How ever does he do it?" one bemused shareholder asked in a stage whisper, and the answer came with question 15. That shareholder rose to his feet, thanked Lord Hanson for calling him, and said: "I did not like the way your public relations people phrased my question, so if you do not mind, I would prefer go back and use my own form of words..." I wonder if Mr 15 will be selected again next year to ask a question.

Hull leaves Hill

SOPHIE Hull has been made redundant from Hill Samuel after seven years spent putting an impeccable gloss on the comings and goings of the merchant bank. She represented the financial services arm of the group before TSB made its expensive takeover on the eve of the 1987 crash, and, 18 months ago, moved over to head communications for the whole bank where she fielded awkward questions about heavy fines imposed by regulators and the bank's enormous losses. Her departure seems to be further proof that Hill Samuel will not remain part of the TSB group



for much longer. The sale is expected to take place as soon as a buyer can be found and management no longer seeks such a high profile. Hull was married on February 27 to John Maher, global marketing director with Hill Samuel Investment Management. "I am definitely going to be a working wife," she said while clearing her desk yesterday.

The naked truth

WHO is that fifty-something man who yesterday graced a full-page of *The Times* wearing nothing but his spectacles? Some City folk might not recognise him, even without the small caption identifying him as Luciano Benetton, the Italian industrialist who runs the eponymous fashion chain. But it didn't twig with *London Tonight*, the capital's new news programme, which yesterday morning issued a press release claiming that only Jack Pizzey, its investigative reporter, knew the identity of the naked man. The ad in *The Times* offers no

clues, neither does the copy underneath. Only London News Network reporter Jack Pizzey knows the famous nude's identity... The secret is revealed on *London Tonight*, the release said. Perhaps a quick perusal of *The Times* might have helped the hapless LNN reporter.

NO CHAMPAGNE corks were flying in *City* watering holes at lunchtime yesterday. Even a base rate cut to only 6 per cent was not enough to persuade dealers to break their traditional January liver-resuscitation regimens. Wine bars were sparsely populated and sombre, with dealers apparently too busy in their dealing rooms to celebrate. The barman at Broadgate's Cornely and Barrow said: "January is pretty bad, you know, with everyone off the drink, but it's never been this quiet."

Rhino runners

MUSCLE-BOUND teams from the City are preparing to run for Save the Rhino in the London Marathon on April 18. Schroeders, Baring Securities, Freshfields, Hambros and James Capel have already entered teams of five and are hoping to win the top team prize of a week on safari in Tanzania — presumably not hunting rhinos. On reaching fundraising targets, competitors will also receive free sports clothing and equipment worth £200. "The good news is, you don't have to run in a rhino costume," says Johnny Roberts and David Stirling, the organisers, who are looking for additional runners.

MELINDA WITTSTOCK

Trade statistics must be accurate

From Mr W. McLennan, Sir, Janet Bush's article "No statistics please, we're British" (January 25) about the new EC trade statistics system (Intrastat) makes a number of comments about British trade statistics, which I would like to correct.

First, I would be surprised if many Community members publish figures from Intrastat by March or April. If they do, users would be well advised to check their quality carefully. I also doubt that the United Kingdom will be the last to publish them.

Second, the trade figures are very important indicators of economic activity, and impact on decisions made by government, business and markets. We therefore must undertake essential quality checks between the monthly Intrastat data and the quarterly VAT returns. As soon as we have information of adequate quality, we shall publish it. For the CSO to publish early inaccurate or incomplete data would,

in my view, be highly irresponsible, and worse than publishing no data at all.

Our plans are to publish aggregate figures of EC trade for the first quarter of 1993 in June. This will mean that the January figures will be four months, and the March figures two months, later than usual. Detailed monthly figures will follow in July. And, of course, we will continue to publish trade statistics with non-EC countries each month as usual.

For your information, the latest complete European trade figures published by Eurostat from the previous system, which has produced data quickly, are for August. For Janet Bush to suggest that Eurostat plans to publish data from the Intrastat system to the same timetable is somewhat surprising. Yours faithfully, W. McLENNAN, Central Statistical Office, Great George Street, SW1.

Cutting cost of processing payments abroad

From Mr R.C. Bullen, Sir, Mr Peter Spiegel highlighted the high charges involved in processing sterling cheques payable abroad (Business Letters, January 14). In general terms, charges will always be higher where some degree of manual processing is involved.

Cheque processing is expensive for the banks, especially where non-domestic currencies are involved. There are, however, alternative methods of payment which may offer more effective means of obtaining funds from abroad.

One example is collection of payments by direct debit. This would not only be beneficial in reducing bank charges, but would also provide additional

benefits in terms of improved debtor control and reduced administration costs.

Barclays always recommends that customers discuss their specific payment requirements with us, in order that the various options available, and costs, can be revealed. Yours faithfully, R.C. BULLEN (Transfer Services Director), Barclays Global Payments, PO Box 120, Longwood Close, Westwood Business Park, Coventry.

Letters to *The Times* Business and Finance section can be sent by fax on 071-782 5112.

Barclays watches the pennies for its shareholders

From Mr James Rowlands, Sir, I have to confess that I am not one of those people who runs down Barclays nowadays. Anyone can lose £300 million in this day and age, particularly if it is someone else's money, and it really is not fair to keep on criticising poor old Barclays all the time.

I think it does a jolly job — not just an excellent job, but I know from my own experience that it is looking after its shareholders' interests and watching every penny. Why, only the other day a client of mine gave me an "advance notification of charges" sheet from his local branch of Barclays and there it was, charging for a partly printed letter at the rate of £3.50 each. My chum would have liked to have seen this partly printed letter, but he never had it, presumably because it was partly printed, but how jolly

good for the shareholders that Barclays is going all-out to watch the pennies like this. It just shows what it can do when it has to recoup the £300 million. Uriah Heap is alive

and well and living somewhere. Yours sincerely, J. ROWLANDS, 356 Hagley Road, Birmingham.

Absurd effects of the Cheques Act

From Mr John Haines, Sir, On the subject of the Cheques Act 1992 (Business Letters, January 20 and 25) mark also the position of joint shareholders. On the death of a relative, part of his shareholding was transferred to my wife and myself jointly, in accordance with his will. For years, my trusting spouse endorsed dividend cheques to me; I paid into my account and paid her the half. Now, I am unable to pay these cheques into any account unless I open a joint one for the purpose. The holdings are so small that only brokers would benefit from realisation. Yours sincerely, JOHN HAINES, End Cottage, Stebbing, near Durrum, Essex.

THE NEW LANDS OF GERMANY INVESTMENT & DEVELOPMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Liegenschaftsgesellschaft der Treuhandanstalt mbH (The German Government Land Agency) Alexanderplatz 6, 10-1020 Berlin Investor Service Telephone: 010-49-30 31 54 70 68

For further information contact UK Consultant

GLASGOW DEVELOPMENT AGENCY

Atrium Court, 50 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 6HQ

Tel: 041 204 1111 Fax: 041 248 1600

or 17/18 Dover Street, London W1X 3PB

Tel: 071 491 3069 Fax: 071 355 4091

Dividend £2.000

Co.	Company	Price 10	Net 10	Yld %	Pct
AN	Schwarzenberg	88			22
41	Seaford	91			
US	Staco	80	+19	20	41
	Staco	80			22

101	APR	260	7	1	25	25	25	11
102	Wright	40	1	4	9	29	11	
103	Adams	100	1	4	9	29	11	
104	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
105	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
106	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
107	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
108	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
109	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
110	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
111	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
112	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
113	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
114	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
115	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
116	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
117	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
118	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
119	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
120	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
121	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
122	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
123	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
124	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
125	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
126	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
127	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
128	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
129	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
130	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
131	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
132	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
133	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
134	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
135	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
136	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
137	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
138	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
139	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
140	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
141	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
142	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
143	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
144	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
145	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
146	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
147	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
148	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
149	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
150	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
151	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
152	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
153	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
154	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
155	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
156	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
157	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
158	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
159	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
160	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
161	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
162	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	
163	Wright	100	1	4	9	29	11	

11	Boilers	21	• 1	..	28
12	Br Lined	100	• 9	9.1	17.1
13	Br Lined	126	• 2	2.1	11.9

88	Cap & Wagon	113	0.2	1.2	..
75	Castor Pump	130	..	2.4	2.1 94.6
33	Chesterfield	223	0.2	18.5	.. 15.1

8 City State Bank	24	..	1.4
9 Charles Nichols	14	..	2.1	...	4.3
10 Clayborn	12	..	...	...	...
11 Dargatz	813	..	25.0	41	12.9
12 Dumas Realty	17	..	...	...	...
13 DeWenden Twp	10	..	2.5	3.1	24.9
14 De Morgan	9	..	...	...	...

8	Waters' Gift	28	...	8.1	7.5
9	Bowers' Oil Lease	139	...	8.1	8.0 14.5
11	Pine Oaks	14	...	...	...
12	Fletcher King	303	...	1.6	6.4 21.7
13	Prosperity	295	+ 8	15.0	11.7 15.5
14	Chandler	101	+ 3	5.2	7.7 15.9
16	Gr Portland	136	+10	10.1	9.8 11.5
17	Graymont	107	+ 1	5.5	...
18	HR Lead	108	4.7 18.2
19	Flintrock Crude	64	+ 8	6.6	1.2

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WATER						
Argentin Water	575	+	19.1	5.6	26.5	
North Atlantic	423	-	7	10.5	4.5	18.5
North Sea	479	-	11	16.6	5.6	23.2
English Strait	469	-	11	14.9	5.3	22.2
Irish Water	466	-	11	15.1	5.2	21.7
200 Yards	1365	-	4	18.5	6.6	25.1
English Water	462	-	10	14.2	4.6	21.3
Port of Water	477	-	10	17.7	6.6	24.3
Port of Water	477	-	6	19.2	4.4	23.6
Port of Water	477	-	1	21.4	4.6	26.6
Port of Water	518	-	4	18.1	5.6	23.7
Port of Water	518	-	1	18.5	5.6	24.1

100 cc of suspension: 1 cc divided: 2 mg
 100 mg. base: 1 cc. oil: 0.5 cc.

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

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Shoe	5%	...	20	79	14
Shoemaker A	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker B	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker C	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker D	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker E	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker F	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker G	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker H	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker I	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker J	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker K	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker L	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker M	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker N	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker O	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker P	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker Q	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker R	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker S	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker T	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker U	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker V	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker W	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker X	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker Y	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker Z	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AA	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AB	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AC	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AD	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AE	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AF	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AG	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AH	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AI	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AJ	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AK	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AL	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AM	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AN	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AO	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AP	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AQ	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AR	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AS	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AT	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AU	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AV	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AW	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AX	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AY	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker AZ	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BA	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BB	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BC	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BD	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BE	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BF	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BG	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BH	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BI	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BJ	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BK	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BL	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BM	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BN	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BO	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BP	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BQ	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BR	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BS	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BT	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BU	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BV	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BW	1%	...	5	95	98
Shoemaker BX	1%	...	5	95	98
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WATER						
Argentin Water	575	+	19.1	5.6	26.5	
North Atlantic	423	-	7	10.5	4.5	18.5
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Port of Water	477	-	1	21.4	4.6	26.6
Port of Water	518	-	4	18.1	5.6	23.7
Port of Water	518	-	1	18.5	5.6	24.1

1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 2155, 2156, 2157, 2158, 2159, 2160, 2161, 2162, 2163, 2164, 2165, 2166, 2167, 2168, 2169, 2170, 2171, 2172, 2173, 2174, 2175, 2176, 2177, 2178, 2179, 2180, 2181, 2182, 2183, 2184, 2185, 2186, 2187, 2188, 2189, 2190, 2191, 2192, 2193, 2194, 2195, 2196, 2197, 2198, 2199, 2200, 2201, 2202, 2203, 2204, 2205, 2206, 2207, 2208, 2209, 2210, 2211, 2212, 2213, 2214, 2215, 2216, 2217, 2218, 2219, 2220, 2221, 2222, 2223, 2224, 2225, 2226, 2227, 2228, 2229, 2230, 2231, 2232, 2233, 2234, 2235, 2236, 2237, 2238, 2239, 2240, 2241, 2242, 2243, 2244, 2245, 2246, 2247, 2248, 2249, 2250, 2251, 2252, 2253, 2254, 2255, 2256, 2257, 2258, 2259, 2260, 2261, 2262, 2263, 2264, 2265, 2266, 2267, 2268, 2269, 2270, 2271, 2272, 2273, 2274, 2275, 2276, 2277, 2278, 2279, 2280, 2281, 2282, 2283, 2284, 2285, 2286, 2287, 2288, 2289, 2290, 2291, 2292, 2293, 2294, 2295, 2296, 2297, 2298, 2299, 2300, 2301, 2302, 2303, 2304, 2305, 2306, 2307, 2308, 2309, 2310, 2311, 2312, 2313, 2314, 2315, 2316, 2317, 2318, 2319, 2320, 2321, 2322, 2323, 2324, 2325, 2326, 2327, 2328, 2329, 2330, 2331, 2332, 2333, 2334, 2335, 2336, 2337, 2338, 2339, 2340, 2341, 2342, 2343, 2344, 2345, 2346, 2347, 2348, 2349, 2350, 2351, 2352, 2353, 2354, 2355, 2356, 2357, 2358, 2359, 2360, 2361, 2362, 2363, 2364, 2365, 2366, 2367, 2368, 2369, 2370, 2371, 2372, 2373, 2374, 2375, 2376, 2377, 2378, 2379, 2380, 2381, 2382, 2383, 2384, 2385, 2386, 2387, 2388, 2389, 2390, 2391, 2392, 2393, 2394, 2395, 2396, 2397, 2398, 2399, 2400, 2401, 2402, 2403, 2404, 2405, 2406, 2407, 2408, 2409, 2410, 2411, 2412, 2413, 2414, 2415, 2416, 2417, 2418, 2419, 2420, 2421, 2422, 2423, 2424, 2425, 2426, 2427, 2428, 2429, 2430, 2431, 2432, 2433, 2434, 2435, 2436, 2437, 2438, 2439, 2440, 2441, 2442, 2443, 2444, 2445, 2446, 2447, 2448, 2449, 2450, 2451, 2452, 2453, 2454, 2455, 2456, 2457, 2458, 2459, 2460, 2461, 2462, 2463, 2464, 2465, 2466, 2467, 2468, 2469, 2470, 2471, 2472, 2473, 2474, 2475, 2476, 2477, 2478, 2479, 2480, 2481, 2482, 2483, 2484, 2485, 2486, 2487, 2488, 2489, 2490, 2491, 2492, 2493, 2494, 2495, 2496, 2497, 2498, 2499, 2500, 2501, 2502, 2503, 2504, 2505, 2506, 2507, 2508, 2509, 2510, 2511, 2512, 2513, 2514, 2515, 2516, 2517, 2518, 2519, 2520, 2521, 2522, 2523, 2524, 2525, 2526, 2527, 2528, 2529, 2530, 2531, 2532, 2533, 2534, 2535, 2536, 2537, 2538, 2539, 2540, 2541, 2542, 2543, 2544, 2545, 2546, 2547, 2548, 2549, 2550, 2551, 2552, 2553, 2554, 2555, 2556, 2557, 2558, 2559, 2560, 2561, 2562, 2563, 2564, 2565, 2566, 2567, 2568, 2569, 2570, 2571, 2572, 2573, 2574, 2575, 2576, 2577, 2578, 2579, 2580, 2581, 2582, 2583, 2584, 2585, 2586, 2587, 2588, 2589, 2590, 2591, 2592, 2593, 2594, 2595, 2596, 2597, 2598, 2599, 2600, 2601, 2602, 2603, 2604, 2605, 2606, 2607, 2608, 2609, 2610, 2611, 2612, 2613, 2614, 2615, 2616, 2617, 2618, 2619, 2620, 2621, 2622, 2623, 2624, 2625, 2626, 2627, 2628, 2629, 2630, 2631, 2632, 2633, 2634, 2635, 2636, 2637, 2638, 2639, 2640, 2641, 2642, 2643, 2644, 2645, 2646, 2647, 2648, 2649, 2650, 2651, 2652, 2653, 2654, 2655, 2656, 2657, 2658, 2659, 2660, 2661, 2662, 2663, 2664, 2665, 2666, 2667, 2668, 2669, 2670, 2671, 2672, 2673, 2674, 2675, 2676, 2677, 2678, 2679, 26

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It's work that demands the highest possible calibre of secretarial support. Right now we're looking for bright, efficient, adaptable people with senior level experience. People whose interpersonal skills are as accomplished as their secretarial skills; who are excellent organisers and administrators; who have plenty of enthusiasm and initiative; and who are cool and efficient under pressure. For all of the following areas, you'll need to be an expert in word processing, audio and shorthand. If you already have related experience, then so much the better.

INTERNATIONAL MARKETING DEVELOPMENT

This Department sets the marketing objectives for key products in major therapy areas. To support the Director of your product group, you'll need excellent L.T. skills plus the confidence to run the office smoothly while team members are overseas. Your personal judgement and initiative will be key to your success in this role.

PATENT DEPARTMENT

Securing worldwide protection for Glaxo discoveries, this Department also enforces all our existing patents. This means that your responsibilities will include arranging the payment of patent bills, maintaining renewal fee records, instructing patent agents and setting up and maintaining a patent database. You should be fluent in word processing and have the maturity to head up a team of secretaries.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

You'll support the Media Relations Manager who is responsible for our communications with the financial, business and international media. It's a demanding role in a pressurised environment and it calls for someone with the assurance, humour and tact to handle telephone calls that are often urgent and from important press contacts.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES SERVICES

The Conferences Services Group arranges over 30 events each year - from workshops to international congresses for up to 2000 delegates. So this is an excellent opening for someone who thrives on meeting people and who has strong planning ability. At least 7 years' secretarial experience is essential whilst some fluency in a European language would be an advantage.

Whatever area you join us in, you'll find your role both demanding and rewarding - both in terms of job satisfaction and rewards. Our remuneration package reflects the importance we place on the work you'll do and will recognise your potential. Please write enclosing your cv to our Consultant, Nigel Bastow, MSL Group Limited, 32 Aybrook Street, London W1M 3JL. Tel: 071 487 5000. Please quote ref N1051.

A DEGREE OF TALENT WITH POTENTIAL TO SPARE? PA TO THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

TO £21,500

BIRMINGHAM

Possession of a good honours degree will demonstrate that you are a person of talent but it is your potential to take real responsibility that will set you apart!

Our Client is a large, complex, technologically driven organisation internationally respected as a centre of excellence.

Successfully managing the demands of the organisation requires great skill and that's where you come in!

Your vital role will be to assume responsibility for the overall administration of the Chief Executives Office; co-ordinating his very busy work programme and supervising the work of the secretary.

It's a high profile role calling for extensive liaison with senior figures in all areas of Government, Industry and Commerce - so first class communication and diplomatic skills are essential. These should be supported by high level keyboard skills and the confidence that comes from having worked as a senior PA within a similarly large and diverse organisation.

What sets this position apart is the opportunity to take on a variety of special projects which will test your potential to the full and provide a platform for real career development in an organisation committed to human resource development.

If this represents the next logical step in your career development then please send a fully detailed CV, or telephone for a Personal History Record Form, quoting ref: 5219 to Tiny Bailey, Director, Alba Selection Ltd., Grays Court, 15 High Street, Harborne, Birmingham, B17 9NT. Telephone: 021 427 8800. Fax: 021 427 8135.

ALBA
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The Honourable Artillery Company c. £18,000

This is an excellent opportunity for someone with a strong background in administration and creative marketing and writing skills. Working as part of a small but enthusiastic team, you must have a strong sense of tradition, a keen interest in history and be able to plan and execute specific projects with a minimum of supervision. You will work closely with the Chief Executive and attend the various executive committees of the organisation, helping set agendas, take minutes and ensure that action points are followed up. You will also be required to manage and direct the efforts of outside suppliers. You must be of degree-level intellect and able to demonstrate skills in administration and marketing gained within a professional environment.

Interested applicants should write to Viveca Selhurst, Touche Ross Executive Selection at the address below, quoting reference 3281A. Please enclose a full cv, together with daytime telephone number.

Touche
Ross

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS

Hill House, 1 Little New Street, London EC4A 3TR

WA £20,000 PKG

LANGUAGE SECRETARY

This interesting and varied position is for a bright secretary who is fluent in any European language. You will work with two Analysts coordinating the publication of research reports, liaising with clients, organising diaries, travel and expenses. You will need an eye for detail, an ability to work to tight deadlines and a good knowledge of PCs and graphics in order to work on layouts and editorial work on research reports. An assertive, well organised and proactive person, (age c.23-30) with a desire to use their initiative as part of a busy team is essential. Call Victoria or Sarah to hear more on 071 225 1888.

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Here is your chance to use your brain and test your composure as you work alongside the trading floor of a top investment bank. Based in exceptional West End offices your role as secretary to two Analysts will involve assisting with reports, organising frequent travel itineraries and co-ordinating busy diaries. You need an eye for detail and the ability to work to deadlines often requiring overtime. Computer literacy, knowledge of graphics, A' levels and 60+ wpm typing essential. An interest in Europe/Economics an advantage. Please call Fiona or Caroline on 071-437 6432.

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Required for Speech Therapy
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with at least 2 years

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We are interested in

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Brandon on 071-44 4512.

Crone Corkill

Banking

CRÈME DE LA CRÈME
CONTINUED ON PAGE 32

GERMAN PART-TIME

Responsible audio typist office secretary required for small German non-commercial organisation in SW1. German mother tongue standard & fluent English. Flawless typing (mainly in German). Experience with window-based, word processing & database applications required.

20 hours per week

Salary around £17,000 pro rata

Send applications to Box No 0718, C/O Times Newspapers, P.O. Box 484 Virginia Street, London, E1 9DD

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Central London c£14,000

The British Red Cross gives skilled and impartial care to people in need and crisis - in their own homes, in the community, at home and abroad, in peace and war.

The Society is going through an exciting period of expansion and is seeking to strengthen its Personnel Division through the appointment of a Training Administrator. Your main responsibilities will include secretarial and administrative tasks, organising some training events and providing support to the newly appointed Training Officer.

Candidates should be 'A' level standard (or equivalent) and computer literate, with a knowledge of Wordperfect 5.1. Flexibility and the ability to demonstrate initiative are essential, as is a concern for detail and an interest in the presentation of training materials.

Benefits include pension scheme, season ticket loan and subsidised restaurant. If you feel you can make a real contribution in this role, please write with full CV to: Kay Scoones, Training Officer, British Red Cross, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London, SW1X 7EL.

Closing date: 10th February 1993

British Red Cross

MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS £14-17K
Professional secretaries are offered superb benefits in return for first class skills and commitment. If you are looking for a new challenge and constantly changing priorities and type at 60wpm call Amanda Watkins at Tate Appointments on 071 408 0424

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with good administrative skills required for busy residential settings department in Putney, Estate Agents. Must be well organised and enthusiastic to join a team where flexibility is just essential as well as initiative. Salary acc. to exp. 50wpm min. Please send CV to: Virginia Blackwell, Putney & Putney, 127 Lower Richmond Road, London SW15 1EZ. No agencies please.

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Livingstone Fisher is a corporate financial company advising clients on buying and selling businesses. This is our 17th year of continuous growth and profitability.

We seek someone who:

- is polished and always impeccably presented
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Please send your CV, current salary and a daytime telephone number to Barrie Pearson, Executive Chairman,

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Please write enclosing C.V. to:

She: Elaine

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We offer a top package which rewards success and the security of a private group which has been established for over 40 years.

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Intelligent mature person, part-time office near Mansion House (EC4). Wordprocessing skills (preferably WordPerfect) and computer experience (Dorcas, Lotus 123) essential. Reliability, accuracy and friendly personality are important. Applications with C.V. to: The Secretary, West Strand House, West Strand House, 1 Queen Street, London EC4A 3DF.

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Good mature, well proven, PA required with good integrity, PA for a very small happy firm near Holloway Circus, London N7. 24-25. Must be a team player (non-smoker). Please ring me at my office: 071 404 3111. No Agencies Please.

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CONTACT: ALAN WARD

APPLING SECRETARY 0214K

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CONTACT: ALAN WARD

RTZ RECRUITMENT, 131 MOULDER STREET, LONDON E1 7AF, TELEPHONE: 071-485 8888.

هنا في النهر

Opportunities for those who train

Even in these recessionary times, secretarial posts are available for those who can offer computer expertise or knowledge of languages for the single market, writes Beryl Dixon

January is a good time to consider a career move, but never has the picture been so confusing or contradictory. Much depends on whom you ask. Recruitment consultants can help, because they build up a picture of what is required by their business clients.

One points to a survey showing that there are around 50 secretaries chasing every job advertised in London; another who placed six people in new jobs in the first two days of the year; and another who says that things are on the move again. Another feels that some good posts are remaining unfilled because people assume that the job market is difficult and are not looking.

All that aside — if you do feel like a change, where might you look? Well, it is 1993: the single market has now come into being. You might therefore expect an increase in the number of positions requiring language skills — and you would be right. There has not been the huge boom that might have been anticipated, but jobs are around and new kinds of employer are offering them. Sectors of manufacturing industry which have not tested the export market much are now keen to get into the EC.

Amanda Gethin of the Sheila Burgess consultancy, which has offices in both London and Paris, says: "There is not perhaps the expected influx of bilingual jobs, but the position is extremely healthy. There has always been a core sector of business with big companies looking for secretaries with languages, but we are now noticing an increasing number of requests from smaller companies, particularly those in manufacturing, who are considering cross-border trade now that barriers are down. It is not unusual for managers in such companies to speak foreign languages. Consequently they are waking up to the fact that they need secretaries and PAs who do."

Magda Lambert of the Multilingual Service agrees. "The total number of jobs is down, in both London and Paris, but the number of jobs requiring languages is up. Multilingual has also noticed new employment sectors emerging — and that more jobs are on offer outside the capital."

"London no longer dominates to such an extent, in part because some firms have relocated." Multilingual was advertising vacancies in Berkshire, Hampshire and Oxfordshire among others last week.

and for the first time overseas in Hungary.

Temping, which went through a bad patch last year, may just be on the up. Then, companies were cutting back on replacement staff, the position was tight, as anyone temping at that time knows, and agencies reduced their own staffing on the temp placement side. Now, some companies are again employing temps — and on longer contracts. "It's a new concept of Key Time," explains Maine-Tucker Recruitment. "Directors are beginning to think in terms of paying for expertise and expert time when they need it. Some companies are giving six month contracts."

So you could brush up your languages; you could try temping; you could also relocate. This need not mean going very far. One thing you might not expect in the recession is the establishment of new recruitment consultancies. Yet three former agency employees have done exactly that, moving from central London to Harrow, where, according to them, openings are good.

Fourteen months ago Angela Burton, Cathy Bolton and Christine Rose became tired of working for someone else, and decided to set up on their own. It was a brave decision, but one which has paid off according to Angela Burton. "After all, we knew things could hardly get worse! I think there is a danger in opening a business in good times. You tend to think things are easy. We have had to work hard, budget and control our costs very carefully. Of course a bad year in one way is good in another. In late



New departures: (from left to right) Angela Burton, Cathy Bolton and Christine Rose have established their own agency in Harrow

1991 we were able to obtain large premises in a prime site at an economical rent."

The three are busily placing secretarial staff at all levels, mainly within a 15 mile radius of Harrow but also with some central London companies. "There is a wide variety of employment here," she says.

A final thought. Anyone looking for a change of job needs to be sure that his or her skills are up to date and, if necessary, acquire some new

ones. I asked Lyn Cecil, managing director of Secretaries Plus, what advice she would give to would-be job-changers.

"I always say that you should plan getting a job in terms of a military campaign. Your troops are your skills. Rusty shorthand won't do. If you have not been using it in your present job, brush it up. Think about learning some languages. Learn how to use spreadsheets, pick up knowledge of another WP

system and learn desk-top publishing."

The last skill was also mentioned by Lynne Dawson of Hobstones, who says this is becoming a very frequent criterion for both permanent and temporary staff. "Companies are increasingly asking for DTP, but good secretaries who are competent in DTP are still in short supply. It is something that can be learned fairly quickly on courses lasting from three days to a week."

TO ADVERTISE
CALL: 071 481 9994

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DTP Secretary
£17,000 +
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A new position has been created within the corporate finance division of a major City bank. Working largely unsupervised, your role will be to produce top quality presentations using the latest desktop publishing software. Good English, creative flair and the ability to respond quickly to deadlines will ensure your success. Experience of graphics packages, fast typing and the confidence to attend presentations when necessary are all essential. Age: 24-28.

Please telephone Melanie Hill on 071 377 9919.

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The preferred age range is 24-35 years. The successful applicant will also have typing skills, and shorthand would be an advantage.

They should be living within a 40 mile radius of Oxford, or be prepared to relocate to that area, and be prepared to travel frequently, particularly within Europe.

A clean driving licence is essential.

This position may suit a German, French or Dutch national living in the UK.

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Peter R. Cook, Managing Director
Peter Cook International PLC
Carterton, Oxon, OX18 3EU

Maine - Tucker
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A top flight PA with an exemplary track record, gained at Senior Management level in a major blue-chip company, is sought as a right hand person to this dynamic Chairman. The successful PA needs to live within a 45 minute "traveling" radius of Ipswich because the job needs a great deal of commitment & a flexible approach to working hours. A PA who has experience of delegating to a secretary & overseeing the running of a key senior managerial office is essential. The objective of the role will be to prioritise, sensitively, all business matters that pass through this office, resulting in the Chairman dealing only with matters of great importance. To achieve this, you need to be a first-rate communicator & used to working with minimal supervision whilst organising, confidently, every aspect of a high profile Chairman's business life. Excellent secretarial skills (100/60) are vital to the role. If you are well educated & between 30 & 45, please contact this office in complete confidence.

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At last a genuine opportunity to progress your Secretarial career. Surrounded by the excitement of a Trading floor environment your role for organisation, self-motivation and enthusiasm will help you manage your team of 3 dynamic Borses. A varied workload combining traditional secretarial duties with extensive client liaison, research and project work makes this high profile, demanding and responsible role ideal for those keen to gain promotion. Age: 22-35.

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Small and well established investment company is looking for a PA to work for their Financial Controller. This is an involving role that needs initiative, flexibility and an inquisitive mind. You will become fully involved in the administration of employee benefits, provide secretarial support (skills: 80/60/WP) and will be a central point of contact for their International offices. Age: 25-40. Financial experience very useful.

Please telephone Caroline Smith on 071-377 8827 for further details.

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City based Financial PR firm is looking for a PA with excellent financial experience to work on a 1:1 basis for a senior director. Working in a hectic and lively environment, you will need an assertive and outgoing personality combined with the ability to work to deadlines and juggle conflicting priorities. Skills: SH useful/60/WP. Age range: 25 - 35.

Please telephone Caroline Smith on 071-377 8827 for further details.

PARIS

Trained in the UK or France? Viable English and French shorthand? Two or three years' experience? Living in, returning to or keen to work in Paris? Opportunity with one of the smaller, private French banking groups for a very bilingual secretary. Good salary/conditions.

BUDAPEST

PA/Secretary with fluent FRENCH and HUNGARIAN to work on a one-to-one basis for the Managing Partner of this international professional organisation in Budapest. Full secretarial support plus lots of liaison, administration, translation and confidential work.

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LONDON DAY SCHOOLS

PA - REGISTRAR
c£15,000

Thomas's Preparatory, Kensington, needs an energetic, enthusiastic person to join their young, friendly staff by mid-march.

If you enjoy responsibility, variety, and working with people and children, are between 25 and 35, with management potential, and educated to 'A' level standards, with good WP and office skills - then please apply.

6 weeks holiday - Pension scheme - and just try our school lunch!

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NO AGENCIES

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Young, dynamic Finance Director of an expanding City-based company needs YOU - a professional PA with excellent organisational & interpersonal skills to manage and co-ordinate his office environment. A new position you will be responsible for its success. Age 25-40 you will need good skills and the ability to make good decisions. Salary negotiable £16k++.

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ALBEMARLE APPOINTMENTS LIMITED

Crone Corkill
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SCHOOL ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY

A specialist day school in Bayswater requires an experienced and mature person to assume administrative responsibilities.

The post offers a satisfying challenge to someone capable of working both independently and as part of a professional team. Essential qualifications are computer literacy, communication skills and discretion.

Salary approx £18,500. Hours 9.15 am - approx 5.30pm. 6 weeks holiday (during school holiday periods only).

Applications in writing enclosing CV together with daytime telephone number to The Principal, Feilday House School, 44 Bark Place, London W2 4AT.

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Do you have first-rate secretarial skills (in TYPING/shorthand) along with comprehensive knowledge of French/German or other European lang? Are you ready to continue your career abroad?

With clients in Paris, Brussels and Frankfurt who often require multilingual PAs/GAs, we can help you get to the heart of the new Europe. If you feel that you can meet the challenge of a new country, new culture and new career, then call us now.

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American children's summer camps need cheerful, responsible young people (aged 18-25) with good communication skills to live and work with children from June to mid-July. For those who are organised, flexible, outgoing and willing to take initiative and who would enjoy combining office duties with the fun of a camp, SUNCAMP offers:

- Work and travel visa
- Food & accommodation while at camp
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Prestige Financial Company with London City office seeks a Graduate Secretary who is keen to support a professional and dynamic team of Financial Managers. As an integral part of the team you will have the opportunity to become fully involved and make your own contribution to the success of the company. The successful candidate will be a graduate with a minimum of 2 years' experience in a secretarial role, with excellent shorthand skills, a good knowledge of office procedures and a strong commitment to the company.

Please call 071 583 5441

CLUTTONS

We are currently looking for a self-motivated, energetic and professional person with excellent organisational and communication skills to work with our residential property sales team in a fast-paced environment.

Typical salary of £14,000 dependent on experience.

Please call or write to: Pamela Cluttons, Cluttons, 17-19 Conesmore Gardens, London W8 6PR. Tel: 071 937 8782

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Required for 2 partners in a small business & sole trader. Excellent typing skills, shorthand, and good organisational skills. Salary £15,000.

Please send CV to: Daphne Rose, 8 Daphne Road, London SW1V 2BQ. No agencies.

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£18,500

High profile Senior Partner of a well established company. PA. Age 25 to 35, prev. legal experience at partner level. Salary £18,500. 25% TAX RELIEF. ON ALL SELF-FUNDED TRAINING

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ARTS

ROCK page 35

Chris Rea: his unshowy slide-guitar and husky vocals are better suited to clubs than arenas

OPERA page 35

Jose Carreras: heroic stature and instinctive command in the title role of Verdi's *Stiffello*

Stardom won by degrees?

Andy Lavender asks whether Britain's first degree course in acting will produce better performers with better career prospects

That well known advice to Mrs Worthington — don't put your daughter on the stage — is wearing thin. After all, if she trains instead as a computer programmer or a quantum physicist, Mrs Worthington's daughter may find her chosen profession is now no more secure than that of an actor. What's more, the honourable profession of treading the boards has acquired a new dignity: Mrs Worthington's daughter can now study for a BA degree in acting.

The latest school to have its course upgraded is the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. It claims to be the first British institution to offer a degree course in acting, as opposed to "drama" or "theatre studies". "Degree status means that acting is recognised as a very intellectual process," says the head of drama, Virginia Snyder.

Not the same kind of process, perhaps, as writing criticism, but one where you have immediately to translate your understanding into action. Far from being an easy option, acting is very demanding.

The degree comes after a concerted period of lobbying on the part of acting schools, who argue that acting is a discipline whose study should be properly recognised. Drama degrees are already on offer at a number of universities, but these generally combine practical work with theatre history and criticism. The new degrees recognise that acting, pure and simple, is no less rigorous. "We expect actors to bring an enormous level of active intelligence," says Nick Phillips, head of acting at the Central School of Speech and Drama. "They need to be able to research, analyse and understand text, and any good actor has a strong critical faculty."

This leads to a nice irony. Academia has been suspicious of acting, seeing it as something of a trivial pursuit. The theatre profession, meanwhile, looks down on academic components as a dilution of an actor's training. The debate is delicate. The heads of the schools stress that their courses must be practical, and that a student might still be accepted who does not have conventional A-level qualifications. But in one or two cases there has been some slip and tuck. The Guildhall, one of the country's premier acting schools, has had its three-year diploma in acting validated as an honours degree course by the alma mater, London City University. This has entailed the addition of some assessed written work, including a dissertation in the final year.

What kind of preparation does the modern actor require? Snyder describes the Guildhall's three-year course as a "conventional classical drama training: movement, a lot of voice work, acrobatics, fights and

fencing, plays of all kinds, period dance, jazz dance..." Actors, she explains, have to be especially versatile to maximise their chances of working in their chosen profession.

As this may include performing abroad, they also study German, on the ground that international directors who do not speak English are likely to have at least some German. Otherwise the emphasis, even in the newly-imported elements of the course, is on the business of performance. "We do a history of theatre course, for instance, but we try not to let it be a sit-down kind of lecture," Snyder explains. "The students read a play every week, they discuss the writing, the kind of audience it was written for, the world of the play. But then they also stand up and walk around and think about how plays of that period were staged."

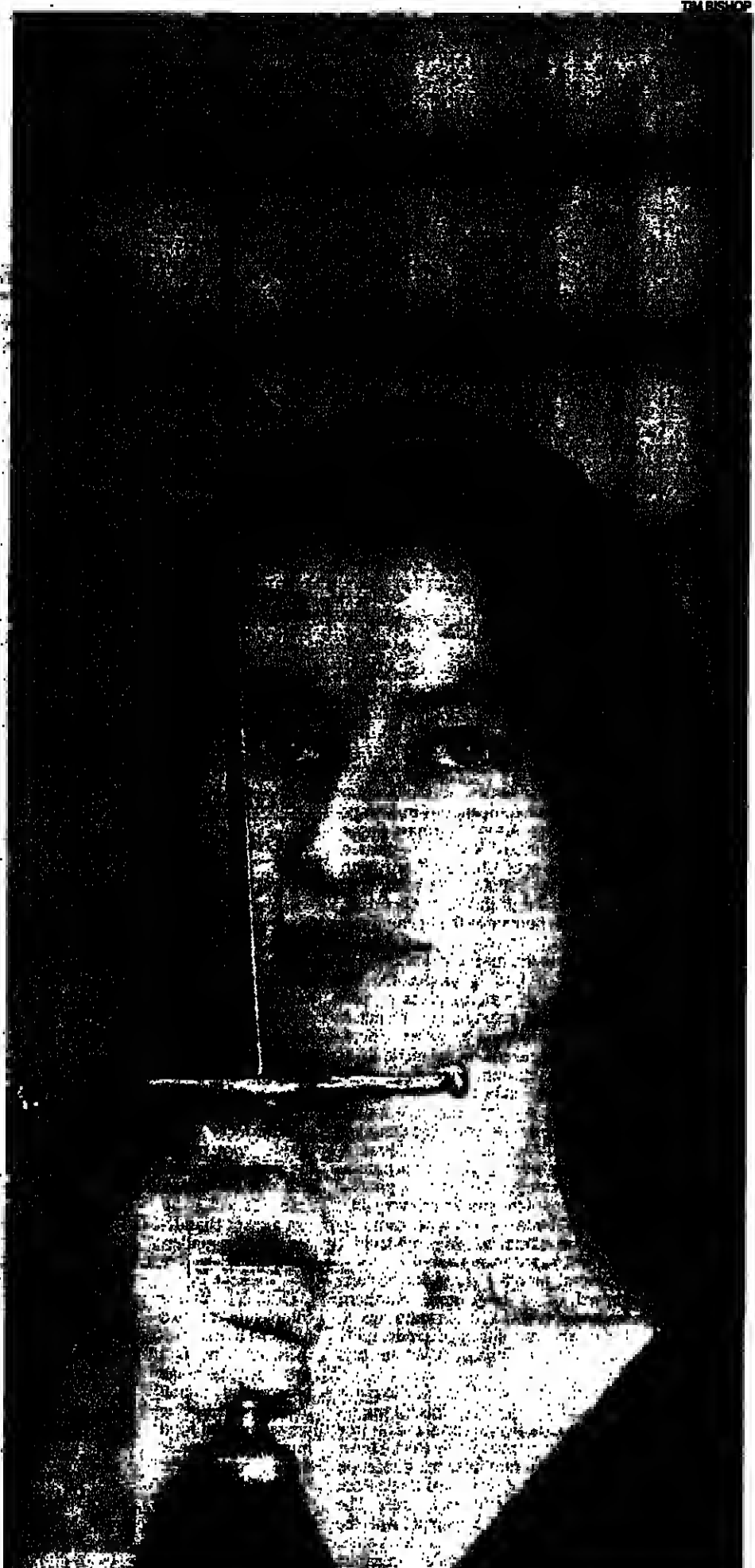
There are no options to choose from: every student does everything, a trademark of conservative training. Does this multi-disciplinary approach help refute the notion that British actors are more limited than their European counterparts: good with voice and text, but hopeless at more physical styles of performance? "It's very difficult in England, where we have such a rich literary tradition, to play away from text," Snyder concedes. "But we look at what goes on elsewhere, and obviously we try to train them to be physical actors as well as vocal actors." Nick Phillips reports that Central actively recognises dancing, mask-work, devised work and other forms of theatre currently gaining ground.

The actor-graduates, then, will be capable all-rounders and have letters after their names. Will this really make a difference, given the chronic unemployment in the acting profession? The problem is less pronounced if you are fortunate enough to get into one of the major schools, whose employment record — in terms of actors finding a first job within about six months of leaving — is eminently respectable.

The degree brings additional comforts. It expands career options further along the line, should an actor wish to leave the profession entirely. More immediately, it offers greater financial opportunities to those studying. Students registered for a degree are eligible for a mandatory grant (as opposed to the more tenuous discretionary grant, if registered for a diploma) and a student loan.

"We were beginning to get a situation where it was only the children of comparatively rich parents who were able to train," says Snyder. "That is not very healthy for this business." At least a mandatory grant helps alleviate that particular problem, although the new wave of

'Degree status means acting is recognised as a very intellectual process'



Eyes fixed on success: Hannah Miles, a student on the Guildhall acting course

students from less wealthy backgrounds will hardly be tidal. The Guildhall's intake is around 24 students a year, selected from over 700 applicants.

The totemic letters "BA" are less of an incentive than is the training itself, but the Guildhall's current first- and

second-years, the first beneficiaries, welcome the new degree as belated recognition of their art. Acting, actors will tell you, is hard and demanding work, and the training reflects this. "A lot of people have made big sacrifices to come here," says Jonathan Morton, one of the Guildhall's

second-years. "You have to be motivated to do it. Someone in our year studied English at Oxford, which demanded about nine hours a week, certainly not in the region of the 45 hours a week we work. He couldn't believe the difference. And people say that we are only playing!"

His indignation is shared. "When we go home at night we don't look like we have been playing all day," says Florence Sparham. Instead she forwards the time-honoured notion that acting is the study of human life. "It is not just one thing, it is all about human beings and all their complications. It is anthropology, psychology, philosophy, and it involves movement and dance."

"I don't think three years here will ever be a waste, even if you never act afterwards. What I do here I will carry on to what I do for the rest of my life."

■ Numbers: Total current British Equity membership is 45,000 (that includes stage managers as well as actors). In 1970 there were 17,983. About 80 per cent are believed to be "resting" at any one time.

■ What they earn: For up to 12 performances in the West End, the union minimum is £254.50 per week. For working on a 35-minute programme on BBC Television the minimum is £346 per week.

■ At the top: Child star Macaulay Culkin reportedly earned about \$5 million for *Home Alone 2*, having earned just \$100,000 from *Home Alone*.



SIR MICHAEL HORDERN

Currently in Trelawny of the 'Wells' at the Comedy Theatre. He did not go to drama school. "I was a keen amateur actor after I left school but it never occurred to me to make a living at it. I was selling exercise books and chalks to schools and doing very well. But one day I realised I was giving far more of my time and enthusiasm to acting than to selling chalks."

"So I had to make a decision and, through various people I got into the repertory company at Bristol, the Little Theatre, to whom I am eternally indebted. I was there for just two seasons, in 1938-39 and in 1939-40, but that experience was really my theatrical schooling. Ronald Russell knew just how much production to give a play. We just got up on the stage and acted."

"I don't regret not having been a drama student. I would have become a different sort of actor. I think I would have become precious. From my experience of people who have been to drama schools, it seems that the theatre becomes, at least for a considerable time, their only interest. I'm glad that didn't happen to me."



DORA BRYAN

About to go out on tour in *Straight and Narrow*. She did not go to drama school.

"I started as a child, one of a troupe of 24 'babes' dancing and twinkling in a pantomime. I spent a bit of time at Rusholme Rep in Lancashire. I was Dora Broadbent then. At 15 I began working at Oldham Rep as an ASM [assistant stage manager]. This was in a temperance church hall, just at the start of the war, before the company moved to the Oldham Coliseum. Nobody taught me to do anything in the acting line. I just picked it up by learning parts and doing them. It's a natural talent, I suppose. Even now I don't know how I do it."

"I don't really understand drama schools or what they are supposed to do. But I'm sure they are very good. I have worked with people who have come out of them, and I always see them at rehearsals scribbling things in the margins of scripts. I think it is called subtext. I don't know what subtext means. And I have always been afraid to ask."



MARGARET TYZACK

Currently preparing *Miss Prism* in *The Importance of Being Earnest* at the Aldwych next month. She was at Rada in the late 1940s.

"It had a little bit of a feeling of a finishing school in those days. I've been back since and it's totally different, but in my time we had a leisurely time there. We were taught voice production, diction, movement, fencing. They never let me get near the foils; I was usually outside disinfecting the masks."

"I must be brutally frank: I learnt more when I was in rep. Someone saw me in the public show at Rada and recommended me to the Civic Theatre in Chesterfield. I did an audition and started there at four pounds and ten shillings a week. As it was weekly rep, we rehearsed one play in the morning, another in the afternoon, and played a third at night. The speed at which we had to work certainly shaped us up. It prepared us for any eventuality."

"Something Rada did do was make us aware how tough it would be when we left. There's far more structure in the training today but sometimes I feel students aren't always prepared for life after they leave."



JANET SUZMAN

Now directing *Death of a Salesman* for Theatre Cymru. She was at Rada in the late 1950s.

"I came from South Africa knowing nothing, and I was fortunate to have three remarkable teachers, all of them eccentrics to some degree. I think that eccentricity is a prerequisite for drama teachers."

"We did class work, vocal work and appraisal of written texts. If you are going to spend the rest of your life knocking your skull against these complex texts, you might as well at least acquire a competent understanding of them."

"There are some rogue talents who probably don't need this training if they've got a head on their shoulders. But nowadays, since there's no substitute for actually doing it, on stage, you are going to need some minimum training in order to know how to begin. But as for the idea of drama training being classified as an academic subject, my instinct is to reject it. It's not an assessable subject, to my mind."

Interviews by Jeremy Kingston

Catch Nige down at Ronnie's in Brum

AFTER announcing his retirement from the classical concert stage, Nigel Kennedy is gearing up for an appearance in the decidedly informal setting of Ronnie Scott's Club in Birmingham. The violinist is due to play a residency at the club — located just across the road from Symphony Hall, a place Kennedy knows rather better — in the first week of March. A club spokesman was understandably pleased with the coup, though he was still waiting for details of the full line-up.

Kennedy has experimented with jazz before. He once recorded his own arrangement (with bass player Alec Dankworth) of Duke Ellington's "Black, Brown and Beige", has recorded an album of jazz, and has made a number of appearances with a jazz-fusion band, London Wasp Factory.

■ MANCHESTER's year as "City of Drama 1994" should



now be all set for take-off, because Manchester Airport has just given the city a sponsorship of £300,000 for the thespian festivities. The "City of Drama" title is part of the Arts Council's Arts 2000 scheme, linking different art-forms with different areas of Britain throughout the decade.

Young prospects

OUT of 103 entries, from composers and librettists aged between 9 and 29, four new operas have been selected by English National Opera for performance as part of its "New Visions, New Voices" scheme, set up to interest young writers from different backgrounds in the operatic



Nigel Kennedy: jazz clubs may replace concert halls

medium. The four are Melissa's *Maelstrom*, written in one week by 16-year-old twins from Devon; *Inspector Otto* and the *Long-Haired Bicycle Maniac*, by two undergraduates from London; *Still*, the true story of a lost Victorian Arctic expedition; and *The King Comm* by a 24-year-old French performance artist. All four will be staged at the Britten Theatre in the Royal College of Music in May.

● MASTER parodist John Wells is adding Aunt Augusta to his thespian arsenal, when he takes over as the larger-than-life eccentric at the heart of Graham Greene's *Travels With My Aunt* at the Wyndham's Theatre from Monday. The cast change has been necessitated by the recent heart attack of Simon Cadell, who is in hospital recuperating from open-heart surgery. Giles Havergal, the play's adapter and director, stepped in at short notice to take the part of Aunt Augusta this week following Cadell's sudden illness.

Rolling up

ASPIRING film-makers will be crowding into a two-day American film school in London next month designed to help participants produce, direct, finance and distribute independent features. Presented by Dov S-S Simens of the Hollywood Film Institute, it is called "Successful Producing: Making Movies and Money" — something of an optimistic title as far as the British film industry is concerned. But the first hurdle for any budding Orson Welles is likely

to be the price of admission to this seminar. Pre-registration is £125, or £145 at the door. The seminar is being organised by the London Film Workshop (071-351 7748) at the Royal College of Art on February 6 and 7.

● PIMLICO Opera, which has considerable inside knowledge of life behind bars, has succeeded in breaking through the latest funding fetters, just announced in the Arts Council's ambiguously named document, *A Creative Future*, and has secured the rare bounty of Arts Council franchise funding of £50,000 a year for three years, starting this April.

Building on a highly successful record of casting real murderers in *Sweeney Todd*, and harnessing the energy of lifers in *West Side Story*, the company now has the go-ahead for a new *Gyps and Dolls* in Wandsworth Prison, as well as the resources for an 11-man (and presumably, one woman) *Traviata* for its summer tour of more conventional, if far-flung, venues. Leicester, Bury, Truro and Deal, among others, can also lick their lips in an anticipa-

tion of Pimlico's production of a new work by Daryl Ruess, called *Zappa Ingles*.

Sterling work

THE Royal Ballet has announced that Mark Silver is leaving the company this week after a career spanning 20 years. Silver, 37, will give his final performance tomorrow at Covent Garden in *The Judas Tree* and *Symphony in C*. The dancer, who became a principal in 1979, plans to pursue a freelance career.

Last chance...

AS WELL as being the end of Julian Cope's residency at the Town & Country, London NW5 (071-284 0303), tonight's show will also be marked by a public demonstration beforehand (6pm) to protest at the imminent closure of the venue. For reasons unknown, the T&C's landlord, Folgate Estates Ltd, is refusing to renew the lease on the property, and despite its thriving turnover and excellent reputation, it seems that the club will have to close or move on March 24.

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OPERA: Reviews of a busy night in London, with a 'new' work by Verdi, rare Handel and a Britten revival

Verdi at his intimate, passionate best

Most operas, forgotten operas, problem operas — when they are found, revived and have their creases ironed out, it sometimes happens that the reasons for their neglect become all too apparent. Not so with *Stiffelio*: at the first professional performance in this country, at Covent Garden on Monday it was as though, through some weird 150-year time-slip, one were attending a major Verdi premiere. It is an astonishing opera, unlike anything else in the canon — *Traviata* is the nearest — and pole-axing in its depth of feeling and dramatic impact.

Yet the very strength of the performance clarified the reasons for its failure in 1850. The setting was contemporary, which was unusual in serious opera. *Stiffelio*, the protagonist, is a fundamentalist Protestant pastor whose wife Lina is an "innocent" adulteress (she has been tricked into sin). The opera ends with *Stiffelio* forgiving her in public at a church service, reading from the Gospel about Christ and the woman taken in adultery: "He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her."

The score is suffused with love and compassion for the erring wife, and it can be no coincidence that during the period of composition Verdi had, to the outrage of the good citizens of Busseto, set up house with Giuseppina Strepponi, to whom he was not yet married and whose past was no better than it should be. Polite society's treatment of Giuseppina also informs the anger, three years later, of *Traviata*. Yet *Stiffelio* seems an even more personal work.

Italian audiences did not know what to make of a married priest,

Stiffelio
Covent Garden

let alone a cuckolded and a forgiving one. They must have been as muddled as we are, momentarily, when Lina demands that *Stiffelio* hear her confession as a Protestant pastor (ch?), not as a husband. And it has to be said that after a trumpet tune in the overture, the music does not exactly sound non-conformist, much of it dances in Mediterranean sunshine, and the rawness and immediacy of the emotions expressed are not those one immediately associates with people from north of the Alps (the original setting was Salzburg).

In any event, by the time the censors had reduced *Stiffelio* to nonsense, the opera had little chance of success. Verdi rewrote it as the conventional historical drama *Aroldo* and mutilated the *Stiffelio* autograph in the process: the original only started to be reconstructed in the 1960s, and Edward Downes's performing edition unveiled on Monday is as authentic as can be.

The rawness and immediacy account for *Stiffelio*'s impact. The marriage on the rocks is not Hispano-heretic or Italo-historical: it's plain bourgeois, and the scenes in which the hapless couple try to sort it out are almost too painful to witness. The opera comes immediately before *Rigoletto*, and points forward to mature Verdi far more than it looks back. For example, the *Rigoletto* quartet is often cited as a milestone in operatic history, with four people voicing conflicting emotions within a single musical

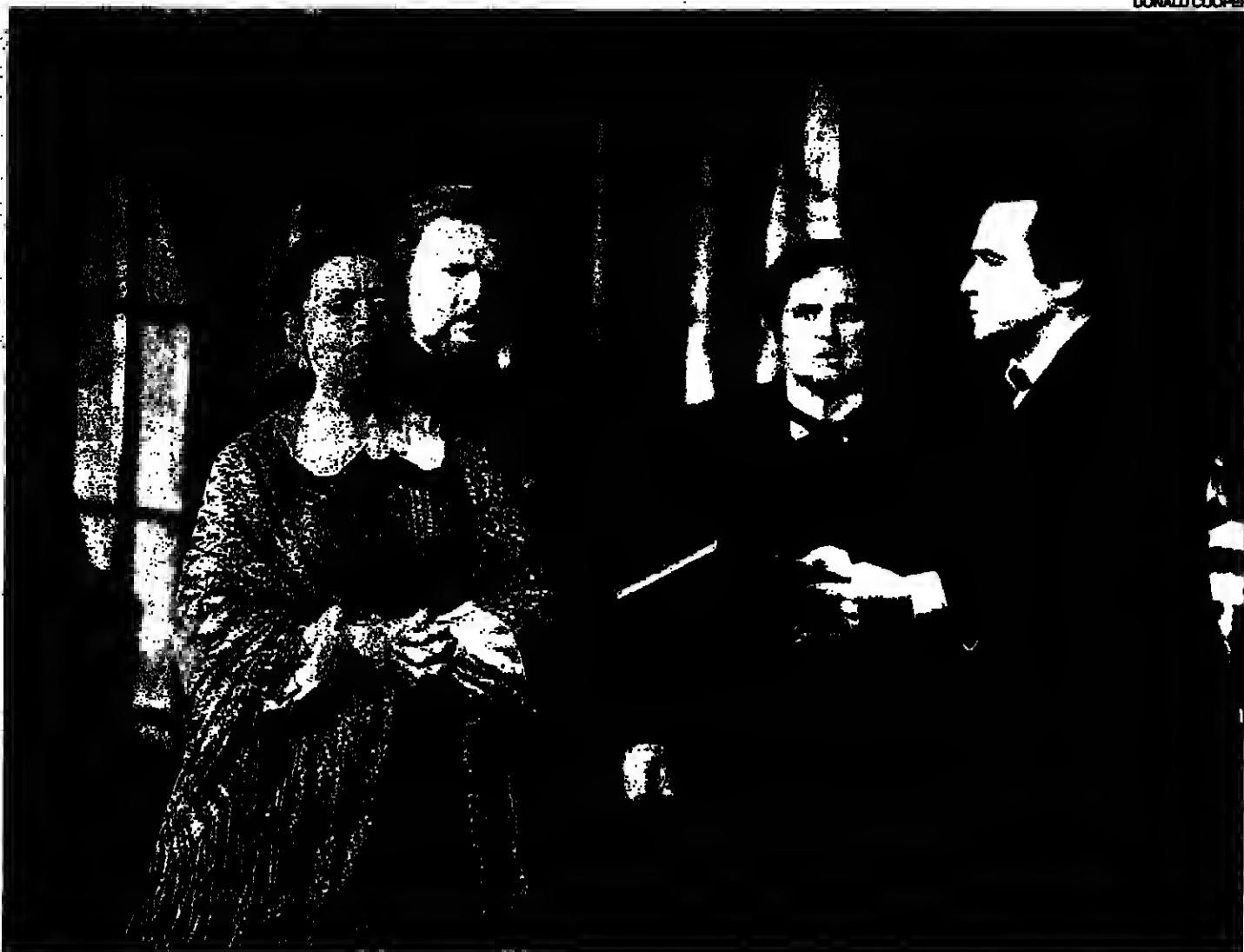
structure: the *Stiffelio* quartet for erring wife, the husband who has just discovered her guilt, the co-respondent, and the wife's over-solicitous father expresses even more conflicting emotions and is, frankly, much more interesting musically. Add two outstanding soprano arias, an archetypal Verdi father-daughter duet and a stunning *concertato* in the first-act finale, and you have a score of bewildering richness.

Monday's performance was beyond any but nitpicking criticism. Downes's conducting confirmed him as one of the (if not the) world's leading maestros — grandeur, sweep, energy, allied to extraordinary delicacy. Elijah Moshinsky's production spared us nothing in rawness and immediacy, and indeed dramatic truth, and Michael Yeargan's mid-19th-century, middle-American settings with the beautifully observed Victorian costumes by Peter J. Hall were all gain.

It is possible to imagine a *Stiffelio* with more light and shade, more nuance than Jose Carreras's, but of his heroic stature, his instinctive command of a role that looks forward to *Otello* in its demands there can be no doubt. Catherine Malfitano's generously, radiantly sung Lina was a glorious assumption, and the increasingly valuable Gregory Yurish has done nothing better than his proud, ravaged, eventually homicidal father-figure. Robin Leggate and Gwynne Howell gave valiant support.

This *Stiffelio* is a great event: move mountains to see it.

RODNEY MILNES



(Left to right) Malfitano, Yurish, Leggate and Carreras voice conflicting emotions within a single musical structure in the quartet for erring wife, the husband who has just discovered her guilt, the co-respondent (Leggate), and the wife's over-solicitous father

Back to their old haunts

Are the ghosts real? In Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*, every guide known to a master storyteller is used to conceal the answer. The two children, Miles and Flora, may be possessed by the spirits of dead servants. Or the Governess may be the kind of walking fruitcake in whom repressed sexuality and hyperactive imagination combine to the discomfort of all around her.

Or the novella could be read as an awful premonition of what happens when a "do-gooder" brings into an abnormal home, smells the odour of devil-worship, and proceeds to impose a cure far worse than the original malaise. For "Governess" read "social worker", and you have quite a topical little story.

Britten's opera shuts off some of James's cunning ambiguity by giving the ghosts of Quint and Miss Jessel not only bodies and voices, but words as well. That defines the story much more tightly as a life-and-death tussle for control of a boy's psyche.

And Jonathan Miller's production, revived by David Rind, for English National Opera, carries de-mythification even further by painting Quint and Miss Jessel very fleshily. Philip Langridge, using that coiled, dangerous manner superbly, as well as immaculate vocal control, plays Quint as the sort of magnetic brute that "Lady Chatterley" would have flung herself upon a few years later, while Miss Jessel is characterised by a pasty-faced Christine Bunnings as something out of Grand Guignol by way of the Addams Family.

All that would work better if Valerie Masterson, playing the Governess, matched up with an equally overwrought performance. But her gently naturalistic acting and silvery singing, while effective in their own terms, seems to have strayed in from a saner world. More suited to a psychiatric struggle concept are the excel-

The Turn of
the Screw
Coliseum

lent boy treble Samuel Burkey as Miles, and the young soprano Megan Kelly as an intense (if occasionally Bonnie Langford-voiced) Flora. Their over-sweet smiles and edgy, quasi-sexual games perfectly suggest an innocence corrupted into a mirror of corruption itself. A strongly sung Mrs Grose from Mary Lloyd Davies makes up this fine cast.

Britten's virtuosic chamber-orchestra score teems with ensemble and individual challenges, and these are smoothly negotiated under James Holmes's direction. Now, however, he must let loose more of the music's heat and terror: the incredible lushness of the night-time sounds (to complement subtly shadowed designs of Patrick Robertson and Rosemary Vercoe); the sudden chill of the string writing when Quint's death is described; the howling horror of the big haunting. A novelist might make a virtue out of ambiguity: a conductor must always plunge straight to the heart of darkness.

RICHARD MORRISON

Handel pulls in a crowd

Ottone
Queen Elizabeth Hall

When *Ottone* was first performed in London in January 1723, its success was such that by the second night the tickets were fetching up to six times their face value. Had there been a second performance of this staging by The King's Consort, the result might have been the same. Monday's full and enthusiastic house was proof that interest in Handel's operas has revived to a degree that would have been unimaginable even a decade ago.

Ottone's plot involves the 10th-century Otto II of Germany attempting to marry the eastern princess Theophano while fighting off would-be usurpers to his throne. Patrick Garland's production, in a rather tacky cardboard-and-gold-paint set by Peter Rice, updates the action to the Napoleonic era, a period whose self-consciously baroque grandeur makes a plausible yet gently ironic setting for opera seria's formalities.

The irony at times went too far. Some of the group scenes were played like *The Marriage of Figaro*. It was affectionately done, but too easy. Producers who want to poke mild fun at opera seria should probably

stick to *Flavio*, where Handel did it himself.

Handel's achievement was to breathe dramatic life into a rigorously conventional form, turning a sequence of contrasting arias into an effective vehicle for psychological development. This production, with an outstanding cast and incisively theatrical playing from the small ensemble of period instruments under Robert King, extracted maximum intensity from these virtuoso emotional displays.

James Bowman, still capable of effortlessly idiomatic vocal authority after 25 years, is not naturally imperious; oddly this made him an ideal *Ottone*, an emperor more

melancholy than martial. Claron McPadden was an impassioned Teofane, all flashing eyes and — at her best — radiantly pure tone: one almost wished for one or two of the additional arias Handel later wrote for the character.

The secondary figures in *Ottone* are, unusually, more complex than the principals. Jennifer Smith as Gismonda, widow of the Italian tyrant Berengario, moved affectively between scheming ambition and maternal devotion. As her son Adelberto, the nearest thing to the villain of the piece, the French countenour Dominique Visse deployed with sharp musical intelligence a voice that is characterful rather than beautiful: he caught to perfection the role's touchingly unconvincing malice. His betrothed, Matilda, a harridan with a soft centre, is a study in vocal and psychological extremes: Linda Ormiston's forthright mezzo and bustling manner were not quite adequate to the challenge. Michael George as the piratical Emireno (but really Basilio, brother to Teofane) made the most of his splendidly bellicose arias.

IAN BRUNSKILL



Psychic tussle: Valerie Masterson as the Governess and Samuel Burkey as Miles in *The Turn of the Screw*

TELEVISION: Stewart Tendler on a distasteful documentary

A pair of eyes stared menacingly on the screen as chilling music played in the background. American police raced to a murder. An expert on serial killers declared that some people like to watch television and some just like to kill. You knew immediately where you were with *Murder in Mind*, last night's "Viewpoint 93" ITV documentary.

Somewhere out there lurks an evil killer equipped with every convenience of torture. If a sharp, opinionated misses those eyes when he goes in for bile-calls, civilisation will be devastated by this beast who chuckles as he works. Scared? You should be. That seemed to be one of the main points of this distasteful programme.

Some years ago a government committee chaired by

Killers given a platform

Michael Grade attacked the television portrayal of factual crime for unnecessarily promoting fear. Too often, said the committee, serious subjects were denigrated by sinister music, violent images and mayhem. If they were watching last night they would have been shocked.

Perhaps the original premise of the programme — at the centre of court action over interviews with multiple killer Dennis Nilsen — was laud-

able. Serial murder and rape is increasing. One method of helping to detect such murderers is to use "psychological profiling", drawing up a mental and physical picture of a criminal using psychological data about his crime and victims. The programme looked at police efforts both nationally and internationally to advance profiling, pointing up the need for more government investment.

Fine. But *Murder in Mind* did not leave it there. One American murderer was interviewed graphically about a sexual act linked to a victim, another coyly wondered on camera why he tortured and killed six men. There were nasty shots of bodies and heads being dug up; pictures of victims, bound, tortured and dead.

The United States, we were told, has seen an increase in murder from 8,000 deaths a year in the 1960s to 25,000 in the 1990s. Serial killers must therefore be on the increase, especially with the new crime of "recreational murder". An American expert forecast that Britain will emulate the United States and the fall of EC frontiers will make it easier for the killer who likes to combine travel with slaughter.

In fact travel within the EC eased some time ago. The number of murders in the United Kingdom runs at about 600 a year and in more than 60 per cent of cases the victim and assailant know each other. The clear-up rate is more than 90 per cent. Serial killers are not new. What else were Jack the Ripper, John Christie, John Haigh and the Moors Murderers?

Central made the programme last night. They also made the *Inspector Morse* series, with a minimum of violence and blood. Yet *Morse* is fiction.

ROCK: Caroline Sullivan reviews a low-key show by Chris Rea at Wembley Arena

Shuffling bluesman lost in space

People who normally despise tasteful soft rockers make an exception in the case of Chris Rea. Although superficially similar, Rea's music has a noir-ish undercurrent that distinguishes the singer/guitarist from the rest of pop's middle-aged carriage trade. It is possible to buy a Rea record without fatally rupturing one's credibility: his last three albums have reached the Top Five.

But although a notable proportion of Rea's public is (relatively) young and cool, you would not have known it on Monday night. Discreet ownership of a Rea CD is one thing; actually to turn up at a concert would be tantamount to bursting through the closet door. The mostly male crowd at the first of two Wembley shows was as forthright and bearded as the star himself.

"Star" is the wrong word for a man of Rea's unassuming, almost withdrawn, nature. He literally shuns the spotlight as he played, lighting effects were trained on the audience rather than at the stage. Rea in concert was a lesson in understatement that made Bruce Springsteen's blue-collar approach seem like *Starlight Express* in comparison.

Rea did not "perform", as such. He merely played a string of blues-inflected rock tunes with an air of such intense abstraction that he seemed unaware that there was an audience out there. The dimly-lit stage was furnished with a couple of chairs and a table, nightclub style. Indeed, Rea's languid guitar solos and husky, insinuating vocals would have been perfect in a venue such as Ronnie Scott's. Why he decided to bring this intimate show to Wembley is anyone's guess.



Chris Rea at Wembley: lighting effects on the audience rather than on the stage

The hits, and there have been surprisingly many, broodingly slipped past. Protracted slide-guitar passages on "Soft Top, Hard Shoulder" and "Nothing to Fear" recalled the 1960s British blues boom, when such things were all the rage. In the same vein, "Josephine" was nudged along by a flurry of maracas and other percussions.

Rea and his band made what could be described as a racket during the anti-television polemic "You Must Be Evil". The best-in-show award, though, must be conferred on a thunderous reading of "The Road to Hell". The lights flicked to a diabolic

red and a bass synthesizer made the walls rumble ominously. It was the only moment in which the singer made effective use of the space around him.

I left feeling impressed but puzzled. Given the man's distaste for ostentation, why does Rea bother with large venues? He might mull it over when mapping out the 1994 tour.

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Oleg Maisenberg piano
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Alan Bates

Alan Lee, cricket correspondent, sees West Indies square the Test series in Adelaide by the narrowest winning margin

Walsh foils Australia's dramatic last-wicket stand

MORE than a cricket match, more even than a Test series, was at stake here last evening when, in an atmosphere of near hysterical tension, Courtney Walsh bowled to Craig McDermott with Australia two runs short of an implausible victory.

What Walsh rescued, with the wicket that gained his side the narrowest winning margin in Test cricket history, was a sporting dynasty. West Indies have not lost a series for 13 years. This result, in a match as exciting as any in my lifetime, keeps the sequence alive at least another week.

Australia, seeking 186 to go two-up with one Test to play, were 74 for seven soon after lunch on the fourth day. "I gave us no chance then," Allan Border, the captain, said. "None at all." But the eighth wicket added 28, the ninth 42 and, with the ball worn and the bowlers weary, McDermott and Tim May began to reel in the target.

They were together for 88 minutes. Every ball survived was cheered, every run cheered. Almost 15,000 people created a cauldron of expectation and, in the main stand, middle-aged women sat with their hands clasped in prayer. Yet after Walsh had bowled the final ball, it was possible to hear a ball drop in the stunned silence.

McDermott, trying to withdraw the bat from yet another ball aimed in the chest-to-nose region, had made faint contact with the glove. By the time Darryl Hair, the umpire, raised his finger, only he and the distraught batsmen were in the vicinity. The West Indians, as one, had de-camped to a spot 20 yards from the pavilion gate, where a delirious Walsh was taking visitors.

If Walsh was the ultimate hero, the architect of the result was Curtly Ambrose. Nine months ago, in Barbados, Ambrose and Walsh had taken eight wickets for 25 after South Africa began the final day needing only 78 to win their first Test match since being readmitted to the fold. Yesterday they shared seven Australian wickets and Ambrose completed a match analysis of ten for 120.

"I was interested to hear Michael Holding say Curtly is still learning," Border said wryly. "I hope he doesn't learn too much more. He bowled fantastically and was the key to the game."

Richie Richardson, the West Indies captain, went further. "Curtly is too good for most batsmen at the moment. I have never seen a bowler like him for prolonged accuracy. I have no doubt he is the best in the world."

Five overs into the day, the Australians knew what they were up against. Ambrose was



Deliverance: Simmons, right, grasps Walsh after the bowler captured the wicket of McDermott to avoid West Indies' first Test series defeat for 13 years

denied a convincing leg before appeal against Taylor but, two balls later, darted one back into Boon's pads. Australia's trusty prop had been kicked away without scoring and Taylor, disorientated around off stump, soon followed.

Mark Waugh looked capable of playing the one big innings necessary but, having taken ten from a Bishop over with some audacious off-side play, he perished to Walsh's extra bounce.

The pitch was offering a little to everyone, as it had all game, and both captains later confirmed its merits. So what occurred after lunch can only be put down to fast bowling of the highest quality. In seven overs from Ambrose and Walsh, Australia lost four wickets for ten runs.

Steve Waugh speared the first ball of the session to cover, and Border did remarkably well to glove a brutal lifter to short leg. Healy and Hughes were summarily dispatched and, suddenly, only the rookie, Justin Langer, remained with the batting order's rag, tag and bobtail for company.

WEST INDIES: First innings 282 (C L Carr 52, M G Hughes 5 for 84). Second innings 146 (R B Richardson 72, T B A May 5 for 9).

AUSTRALIA: First innings 213 (C E L Ambrose 6 for 74).

Second innings: D C Boon bowled by Ambrose 0; M A Taylor c Murray b Bishop 54; J Langer c Murray b Bishop 54; M E Waugh c Hopper b Walsh 26; S R Waugh c Ambrose b Ambrose 4; V A R Border c Haynes b Ambrose 1; H A Healy b Walsh 1; M G Hughes bowled by Ambrose 0; S K Warne bowled by Bishop 22; T B A May not out 42; C J McDermott c Murray b Walsh 18; Extras (b 1, lb 8, nb 13) 22.

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-16, 3-54, 4-64, 5-72, 6-73, 7-74, 8-102, 9-144.

BOWL OUT: Ambrose 26-5-46-4; Bishop 17-3-41-2; Benjamin 12-2-32-1; Walsh 19-4-44-3; Hopper 5-1-12-0.

Man of the match: C E L Ambrose.

PREVIOUS MATCHES: First Test: match drawn (Brisbane); second Test: Australia won by 138 runs (Melbourne); third Test: match drawn (Sydney). MATCH TO COME: fifth Test: Jan 30 (Perth).

chances was to do a handstand. A fatalist and a positive thinker, he was prepared to wait for his dues.

But by the time Bishop, nothing like as potent as Ambrose, located the line to banish Warne, the crowd had begun to sense that this game would not die unscathed. May, an Adelaide man dear to their hearts, displayed the courage to stand up and be hit about the body, then unfurled an unsuspected technique. Nudging and working the ball into gaps, May gave Langer the confidence to assert.

In six overs after tea, 34 runs were added before Langer fell to a pull shot for the second time in the match. Being a young perfectionist, he will fret but he should also take the praise coming his way. In a Test debut offered under stress, he batted almost six hours.

As Border was to relate later, the tenth-wicket pair began with nothing expected of them.

"I didn't get nervous until we were ten or 15 away from winning," Border said. "Up to then, it was just a matter of

wondering when it would end."

But with Ambrose and Bishop both frustrated enough to receive words of caution for overuse of the short ball, the game crept to its extraordinary crescendo. Walsh was lucky. His previous ball was a long hop, and McDermott, early on the shot, only toe-ended a pull intended for the winning boundary. The next was simply too good for him.

In the bedlam that ensued, nobody looked calmer than Richardson and yet, in a sense, nobody had more to lose. The captain explained it simply, if bewilderingly. "I knew Courtney would take the wicket with that ball," he said. "I just felt it would happen. If you don't believe, you don't achieve."

Langer may have persuaded the Australian selectors to add another young player, Jo Angel, to the squad for the deciding Test, which starts in Perth on Saturday. Angel, 24, a fast bowler, and Damien Martyn, also from Western Australia, yesterday were added to the 12 on duty in Adelaide.

Match worthy of a parade

By IVO TENNANT

THERE have been numerous victories by narrow margins in the history of Test cricket but none so close as West Indies' momentous one-run victory over Australia yesterday. In years to come, it will be talked about in the same breath as their famous tied Test at Brisbane on their 1960-1 tour.

At the end of this, Frank Worrell's players were given a ticker-tape farewell in Melbourne for the manner in which they had contributed to an absorbing series. Perhaps it will be repeated.

The majority of victories that were achieved by fewer than 20 runs occurred a great many years ago. Australia beat England by seven runs in 1882, their first victory over a full-strength England side in England. Hence the mock obituary notice that the body of English cricket would be cremated and the ashes taken to Australia.

Further close results fol-

Bowling sides	Result	Margin
1929-30 Australia vs England	Australia 1 run	1 run
1930-31 Australia vs England	Australia 3 runs	3 runs
1931-32 Australia vs England	Australia 8 runs	8 runs
1932-33 Australia vs England	Australia 7 runs	7 runs
1933-34 Australia vs England	Australia 15 runs	15 runs
1934-35 Australia vs England	Australia 40 runs	40 runs
1935-36 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1936-37 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1937-38 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1938-39 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1939-40 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1940-41 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1941-42 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1942-43 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
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1987-88 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1988-89 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1989-90 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1990-91 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1991-92 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs
1992-93 Australia vs England	Australia 36 runs	36 runs

lowed. Australia beat England by six runs in 1884-5 — not least because Barnes, the Nottinghamshire professional, refused to bowl after a quarrel with Shrewsbury, the England captain — and by three runs at Old Trafford in 1902, when Trumper made a century before lunch on the first day. Eighty years later England won by three runs at Melbourne under Willis.

The highest last-wicket partnership to win a Test is 48, for South Africa against England

at Johannesburg in 1905-6 when "Dave" Nourse, who made 93, was partnered by Sherwell, South Africa's captain.

It should not be overlooked that there was a second tied Test. In Madras, in 1986-7, India lost all their second-innings wickets to the Australian spinners, Matthews and Bright. Australia had amassed their highest total in India, 574 for seven. Unlike this latest Test, there had been little hint of such a climax.

Gooch suffers on rail journey

FROM PETER BALL IN CALCUTTA

THE England players are discovering there are no straightforward days in India. Having arrived in Calcutta in remarkably good order after a night on the Puri Express, they immediately learned that the captain had gone down with a viral infection that has been spreading through the team.

Devon Malcolm was the first victim, contracting it on Thursday and missing the first two days of the match in Cuttack. Both Paul Taylor and John Emburey have since succumbed to milder forms.

Athey is freed on appeal

BILL Athey, the former Yorkshire, Gloucestershire and England batsman, has won his appeal to become a free agent, the Test and County Cricket Board announced yesterday (Martin Seabury writes).

After evidence was given by the player's lawyer, Tony Brown, the board's administrative officer, said: "In view of the fact that Gloucestershire have withdrawn their offer, it is thought proper to change

Gooch began to feel the effects on Monday and it developed overnight on the train. He spent yesterday in bed, has a slight temperature and is on antibiotics.

At this stage, there is no serious suggestion that he might stop him playing in his hundredth Test match, which begins here on Friday. "He is going to have to be very ill not to go out there on Friday," Keith Fletcher, the team manager, said.

Emburey and Taylor were both said to be improving yesterday, but DeFreitas was

ruled out. Fletcher's first sight of the Eden Gardens wicket means that any plans to go into the match with four seam bowlers may have to be revised.

"We have to wait until Friday to see, but there are already some wide cracks in it," Fletcher reported.

"I'm told they will seal up, but who knows? Everyone says it turns from the word go. We'll have to have a look at it for ourselves on Friday."

Still, however, England's transport arrangements are causing concern. Yesterday, it was confirmed England may refuse to play next weekend's three-day match against a Rest XI at Vishakhapatnam, due to be played from February 5 to 7 between the first and second Test matches.

Vishakhapatnam is on the way to Madras, the venue for the second Test, but the team's tour manager, Bob Bennett, is concerned that yet another Indian Airlines flight might suddenly disappear from the schedules. England will request that the game be switched to Madras.

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Why the MCC 'rebels' dug in their heels

Members of MCC today debate an unprecedented motion of no confidence in the England cricket selectors. One of the dissenting members, Tim Heald, puts their case



members felt strongly about it. This was not unexpected. Part of the fun of following any game is disagreeing with selectors.

This time, however, some members of the club were crosser than usual and rather more than 250 of us signed a petition calling for a meeting to debate a motion of no confidence in the selection committee. This was got up, entirely voluntarily, by Dennis Oliver, an avid cricket lover, acting on behalf of no vested interest or authority. He was simply standing up to be counted.

If members of a cricket club are not supposed to make a fuss about cricket, what are they supposed to make a fuss about? The committee — apparently thought otherwise and to such an extent that the president, Dennis Silk, the

former Warden of Radley who used to play for Somerset, asked the signatories to Lord's so that he could explain the folly of their action.

It was a most peculiar meeting. Suffice to say that Mr Silk got it dramatically wrong. Since he was up against not only the doctored Mr Oliver but also Lord Gilmour, Harold Pinter and the editor of *The Observer*, he should have had a prolonged oratorical net beforehand. But he underestimated the strength of the opposition.

Many of those who attended were prepared to accept his compromise — a stiff letter to set beside the many hundreds already written to the selectors — but, largely because they felt they were being treated like an assembly of Radley new boys being told the facts of life, they voted almost unanimously to

have the motion set before the membership.

The arguments about whether this is sensible are as detailed and abstruse as the arguments about the original selection, but underlying the dispute is the matter of deference and authority.

The day after the meeting I heard Mr Silk on the radio saying that he very much doubted whether any of the signatories had played in a three-day match. This seemed to me much the same as suggesting that the only people allowed to make a bet on the 2.30 at Sandown are the horses.

The selectors, runs the official view, are experienced former cricketers doing a difficult job with great dedication. The rest of us ignorant peasants should therefore shut up and be

thankful. This, of course, will not do. The MCC "rebels" (a misleading though increasingly used pejorative) want no more than to blow what one cricket writer described as "a collective raspberry" at people who they think have fallen down on the job.

Of course, we are happy to see the matter properly and publicly debated. This is part of the point of the exercise: to flush out a chairman of selectors whose attitude has been described as "taciturn and charmless".

The England selectors, like many public figures today, seem to think that they should be immune from doing battle with the newsward squad at the back of the ball. But it is one thing to respond in kind, another to pretend that such criticism is out of order. I am all for the speaker answering the heckler back, but I am not in favour of having the heckler ejected.

Which is my main reason now for backing Dennis Oliver: to support the right of the man at the back of the audience when he calls out "Oi".

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BBC1

8.00 Business Breakfast (12824) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (8545829)
9.05 Killy. Robert Killy-Silk chairs a studio discussion on a topical subject (8713621) 9.45 Ross King. Game show (s) (3815263)
10.00 News, regional news and weather (4314485) 10.05 Playdays. For the very young (s) (2381114)
10.30 Good Morning... with Anne and Nick. Magazine series presented by Anne Diamond and Nick Owen. Today's edition includes a romantic story, Claire Reynier's agony aunt phone-in and a skit report from Iceland in Australia (s). With News (Cesfax) and weather at 11.00 and 12.00 (4399681)
12.15 Pebble Mill. Among Alan Titchmarsh's guests is singer Gary Clark (s) (3038221) 12.55 Regional News and weather (2472253)
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip Hirst. (Cesfax) Weather (43485)
1.30 Neighbours. (Cesfax) (s) (5856022) 1.50 Eldorado (s) (Cesfax) (2303748)
2.28 Hawaii Five-O. American police drama series starring Jack Lord (s) (4516953) 3.10 Primetime. Lord Lightfield announces the winner of the *Prism* photographic competition and Roy Castle and Maggie Philbin look into the importance of 1993 as European Year of Older People (s) (8544331)
3.50 The Adventures of Buzzy Bee and Friends. Country tales for the very young (8662008) 3.55 Blues. Ideas for turning household junk into something useful (s) (7359331) 4.10 Jeopardy. Paul Merton with part three of *Missy Guss* (5857982) 4.25 Quick Draw. Scotland. (Cesfax) (s) (52242) 4.30 The Annals of Parthian Wood. Episode four of the 13-part animated children's drama. (Cesfax) (s) (3805468)
4.55 Newsworld (585755) 5.05 The Return of the Gamemaster. Episode four of the six-part drama based on the novels by E. Nesbit. (Cesfax) (s) (317114)
5.35 Neighbours (s). (Cesfax) (s) (5856022). Northern Ireland: Inside Ulster
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Peter Sissons and Chris Lowe. (Cesfax) Weather (973)
6.30 Regional News Magazine (563). Northern Ireland: Neighbours.
7.00 Eldorado. (Cesfax) (s) (4737)
7.30 Tomorrow's World. Includes news of an instrument that allows the musician to be a one-person quartet and a report from Holland on the search to find the fastest water cycle. (Cesfax) (s) (37)



Bungling sleuths: Robert Powell, Jasper Carrott (8.00pm)

8.00 The Detectives.
● CHOICE: A spin-off from the *Carroll* series features Jasper Carrott and Robert Powell as the bungling sleuths Bob and Dave, promoted from short sketch to half hour show. There is always a danger of blowing up an idea beyond its worth and it remains to be seen whether the transplant will take. On the early evidence the project may need sharper focus. In tonight's tale, which combines elements of *Agatha Christie* and *Hitchcock's* *Psycho*, the leads are sent to solve a murder in a country house. There is effective mocking of the whodunit genre, notably the banalities of its dialogue, but despite the best efforts of the stars the result is only moderately funny. (Cesfax) (3485)
8.30 Victoria Wood: Men's Suits in Thelma's Doodle. A repeat of Victoria Wood's 1989 series of six comedy plays. Tonight, the delights and torments of staying at a fashionable health farm are explored. (Cesfax) (2592)
9.00 News O'Clock News with Michael Buerk. (Cesfax) Regional news and weather (4718)
9.30 Clive James — *Fame in the Twentieth Century*. Clive James continues his series examining the nature of 20th-century fame with a look at those people who achieved it between the years 1940 to 1952. (Cesfax) (393621)
10.20 Sportsworld presented by Desmond Lynam. Football highlights from two of tonight's Premier League matches and from the quarter-finals of the Italian cup featuring AC Milan against their big rivals, the Inter Milan (585832) 12.00 Weather (580388). Ends at 12.05am
2.15-3.15 BBC Select: *Acquainted Television*. Scrambled (805883)
4.00-4.50 TV Edit. France Panorama 7. Scrambled (904206)

BBC2

8.00 Breakfast News (4903379)
8.15 Westminster. A round-up of news from both Houses (836008)
9.00 Daytime on Two. Educational programme
2.00 News and weather followed by *Who and Me* (s) (9058975) 2.15 Look, Stranger. A portrait of cyclist Bill Houston (s) (9058975)
2.30 Countryfile. John Craven explores rural issues (s) (7477263)
3.00 News (Cesfax) and weather (8552008) followed by *Westminster Live* produced by Ian Macwhirter (5704824) 3.50 News (Cesfax), regional news and weather (372537)
4.00 Catchword. Paul Cole with another round of the word game (s) (468)
4.30 Behind the Headlines presented by Linda Agran (s) (350)
5.00 Top Gear Take 2. Jeremy Clarkson takes a group of Lamborghini on the road and Tony Mason reports on 24-hour ice racing in Chamonix (805877)
5.10 Horizon. The first of a two-part portrait of physicist Richard Feynman (s). (Cesfax) (s) (5151195)
6.00 Star Trek. Classic science fiction drama series starring William Shatner and Leonard Nimoy (s) (111440)
6.50 D&F: Il Reportage. The youth current affairs series investigates why so many young people go missing (s) (755824)
7.30 Choir of the Year. The last quarter final of the Sainsbury's Choir of the Year competition (s) (416824)



Jack Lynch: did his government help the IRA? (8.10pm)

8.10 Timeswatch: The Sparks That Lit the Bonfire.
● CHOICE: Peter Taylor examines the origins of the Northern Ireland troubles and suggests that much of the blame lies with the government in Dublin. He argues that help from the Irish Republic gave decisive encouragement to the Provisional IRA after its split from the old Marxist wing of the movement. That help came in money channelled in secret bank accounts and the promise of guns and equipment. It is also said that in 1970 the Dublin government moved troops to the border and was prepared to intervene on behalf of the IRA veterans of the period and a minister in the Lynch cabinet, Neil Blaney. Perhaps it is too much for the film to claim "a wealth of new evidence". But Taylor's reporting is tenacious and his conclusions plausible (s) (37027)
8.00 MPA-SH. Hawkeye receives a visit from an old friend who is writing a first hand account of life in the infantry (s) (832282)
9.25 Clarissa. The final episode of the period drama based on the 18th-century novel by Samuel Richardson, starring Sean Bean and Susie Wokoschka (s). (Cesfax) (s) (671375)
10.30 Newsnight with Peter Snow (510088)
11.15 The Late Show. Arts and media magazine (s) (479195)
11.55 Behind the Headlines (s) (101006)
12.25am Weather (580451). Ends at 12.35
2.00 NightSchool TV. Geography — West Africa (330979). Ends at 3.40

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ITV LONDON

6.00 GMTV with Michael Wilson and Fiona Armstrong. The guests include Joe McGann, Franco Nero and Stephen Dennis (7156195)
9.25 Runaway. Quiz game hosted by Richard Madeley (8383821) 9.55 London Today (Teletext) and weather (2957534)
10.00 The Time... The Place... Topical discussion programme (4895535)
10.35 This Morning. Magazine series presented by Judy Finnigan and Richard Madeley. Today's edition includes legal advice and a visit to the children of a famous chef. With national and international news at 10.55 and regional news at 11.55 followed by national weather (4611350)
12.10 Allsorts. For the very young (s) (983534)
12.30 ITN Lunchtime News. (Teletext) Weather (8555553) 1.05 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8458840)
1.15 Hours and Away. Australian drama series. (Teletext) (455078) 1.45 A Country Practice. Medical drama set in the Australian outback (s) (805517)
2.15 The Chrysalis Rose Show. Topical chat show (750488) 2.45 Take the High Road. Highlands-based drama serial (7460073)
3.10 News headlines (8543114) 3.15 London Today (Teletext) and weather (8458840) 3.20 News headlines. Quiz game for teenagers, introduced by Bob Holmes (1475305)
3.50 Cartoon (857176) 3.55 Grotbags. Adventures of a wicked witch, starring Carol Lee Scott (s) (8721553) 4.15 Garfield and Friends (s) (8032244) 4.40 Fun House. Slapstick game show (9207850)
5.10 Home and Away (s). (Teletext) (3161553)
5.40 Early Evening News. (Teletext) Weather (243027)
6.00 London Tonight presented by Alastair Stewart and Fiona Foster. (Teletext) (40573)
7.00 This Is Your Life. Michael Aspel springs an emotional surprise on another starlet worthy (s) (805)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (805)

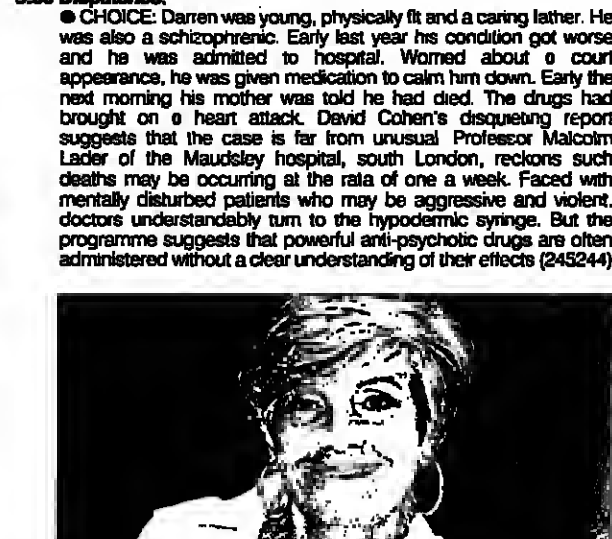


Graveyard shift: Roy Marsden as John Stoolton (8.00pm)

8.00 Sherlock Holmes: The Last Vampyre.
● CHOICE: Farewell Inspector Morse, welcome back Sherlock Holmes. He may not drive a vintage Jaguar but at least he has a first name. He is also superbly played by Jeremy Brett, a performance as definitive as Joan Hickson's Miss Marple or David Suchet's Poirot. In *The Last Vampyre* he is called in to investigate the death of a baby, which may be linked to another death (murder?) a century before. There are hints of the supernatural but Holmes prefers more earthbound explanations. Stretching a 16-page story into two hours of television means some reshaping, a few new characters and a slightly messy pace. But this is the usual polished production, filmed partly in the Cotswolds and partly in Shropshire and with a reliable cast that includes Roy Marsden (in a terrible wig), Keith Barron, and Maurice Denham. (Teletext) (1379)
10.00 News at Ten. (Teletext) Weather (2447) 10.30 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (177185)
10.40 Carlton Sport. Football highlights from tonight's first division game between West Ham and Bristol City and Bradford v Derby County in the Anglo-Italian cup semi-final first leg (4052195)
12.00 Film: What's Up Tiger Lily? (1966). A spoof Japanese James Bond movie redubbed by Woody Allen into one long, very funny joke about international intrigue concerning a valued recipe for an egg salad (87751)
1.30 Entertainment UK. Weekly arts and leisure time guide (s) (35886)
2.30 The Chrysalis Rose Show (s) (82865)
3.00 The Late Show. The latest video releases reviewed (s) (25242) 4.00-6.00 Good Morning Magazine (s) (36003)
5.00 Rivers. French soap charting the fluctuating fortunes of the aristocratic de Courcy family (39770)
5.30 ITN Morning News (26645). Ends at 6.00

CHANNEL 4

6.40 Spiff and Hercules (2969089) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (33008)
9.00 You Set Your Life. American game show (s) (34824)
9.30 Schools (71947)
12.00 The Parliament Programme. Anne Perkins with a round-up of news from both Houses (14000)
12.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Robin Williams, who talks about baseball (90379) 1.30 Lift Off. Tony Williams, who talks about baseball (90379) 1.30 Lift Off. Tony Williams, who talks about baseball (s) (82185)
2.00 Film: City for Conquest (1940, b/w) starring James Cagney, Ann Sheridan, Arthur Kennedy and Anthony Quinn. Tough drama set in New York's East Side about a truck driver who becomes a boxer in order to impress his dancer girlfriend who then decides she prefers a more musical partner. Directed by Anatole Litvak. (Teletext) (66191)
3.50 Pete Smith Specialities: Athletiquiz (b/w). A look at the world of sports quizzes (128553)
4.00 Birdscape. Wildlife artist Bruce Pearson is on the Cornwall coast with Dick Trolen, an expert on peregrine falcons (s). (Teletext) (534)
4.30 Countdown. Richard Whiteley presents another round of the words and numbers game. (Teletext) (s) (4483821)
5.05 The Wednesday Weeple. Paula Yates with another heart-rending romantic story (822640)
5.15 Film: *Everybody's Baby — the Rescue of Jessica McClure* (1989) starring Beau Bridges. A real-life drama about the rescue of 18-month-old Jessica McClure, who in 1987 fell down a narrow abandoned well. What should have been a straightforward operation turns into a life or death situation. With Rowan Atkinson, Pat Hingle and Patty Duke. Directed by Mel Daniels (1547038)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) and weather (645008)
7.50 Comment (701089)
8.00 Brookside. (Teletext) (s) (8195)
8.30 Travelog. Pete McCarthy discovers the interesting side of New Zealand. (Teletext) (s) (5602)
9.00 Dispatches.
● CHOICE: Darren was young, physically fit and a caring father. He was also a schizophrenic. Early last year his condition got worse and he was admitted to hospital. Worried about a court appearance, he was given medication to calm him down. Early the next morning his mother was told he had died. The drugs had brought on a heart attack. David Cohen's disquieting report suggests that the case is far from unusual. Professor Malcolm Lader of the Maudsley hospital, south London, reckons such deaths may be occurring at the rate of one a week. Faced with mentally disturbed patients who may be aggressive and violent, doctors understandably turn to the hypodermic syringe. But the programme suggests that powerful anti-psychotic drugs are often administered without a clear understanding of their effects (245244)



Wallingford revisited: evacuee Sheila Hancock (8.45pm)

9.45 Snapshots. The series on celebrities revisiting places of memory continues with Sheila Hancock returning to Wallingford in Oxfordshire where she was sent at the outbreak of the second world war when she was aged eight (764701)
10.00 The Golden Girls. Sharp comedy about four women of a certain age sharing a Miami home. (Teletext) (s) (22089)
10.30 Nightingales. Off-beat comedy series starring Robert Lindsay, David Threlkeld and James Ellis as a trio of eccentric nightwatchmen (s) (63048)
11.05 The Precious. Cult drama series from the 1960s devised by and starring Patrick McGowan (s). (Teletext) (223843)
12.05am The Steve Allen Show (b/w). American comedy series from the 1950s. Tonight's guests include Peter Ustinov and Ray Anthony (1354206)
12.35 The Best of the Worst. Lowlights from the worst of television presented by Greg Kinnear (s) (1238770)
1.05 Film: *Rien Raikonen* (1980). The Helsinki season continues with this story about, crime, the law, family feuds and treachery. Starring Amilabh Bachchan and Zeenat Amman. Directed by Vijay Anand. In Hindi with English subtitles (7763887). Ends at 1.10

VARIATIONS

ANGLIA
As London except: 2.15-2.45 Gardening Time (70488) 3.20-3.50 The Young Doctors (1475353) 5.10-5.40 Blockbusters (1475353) 6.00 News and weather (72800)
6.25-7.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 7.00-7.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 7.30-8.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 8.00-8.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 8.30-9.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 9.00-9.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 9.30-10.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 10.00-10.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 10.30-11.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 11.00-11.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 11.30-12.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 12.00-12.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 12.30-1.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 1.00-1.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 1.30-2.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 2.00-2.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 2.30-3.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 3.00-3.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 3.30-4.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 4.00-4.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 4.30-5.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 5.00-5.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 5.30-6.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 6.00-6.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 6.30-7.00 The Young Doctors (1475353) 7.00-7.30 The Young Doctors (1475353) 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Mystery of 8,000 missing supporters

Villa unable to explain poor home attendances

By DENNIS SHAW
AND CHRIS MOORE

ASTON Villa officials will carefully monitor tonight's attendance figure for the visit of Sheffield United as they attempt to solve the mystery of 8,000 "missing" supporters who have not yet responded fully to the club's challenge for the Premier League championship.

Is it the cost of admission, too many fixtures, apathy among almost half of their potential support, or a gradual fall-off in football interest in the region? Or is there some other, more obscure reason for the unstable attendance graph?

Although Ron Atkinson's team is regarded as the one most likely to deprive Manchester United of their first title in 26 years, certain Villa Park gates have been profoundly disappointing.

The 8,000 supporters in question seemingly choose their matches on the perceived strength of the opposition rather than to merely support their own club.

While seven of the club's home league fixtures have attracted crowds of 28,000 and over, the other five have been 20,000 and less.

It is this 8,000 gap which mystifies the club since the extent of the differential is a completely new phenomenon.

Steve Stide, the club secretary said: "We cannot understand it at all. We have held discussions about it and not

Premier League matches in present season	
Manchester Utd	39,063
Liverpool	37,863
Arsenal	35,170
Blackburn	30,388
Leeds Utd	29,151
Nottingham	28,015
Sheff Wed	26,837
Queens Park Rangers	20,140
Middlesbrough	19,977
Chelsea	19,125
Southampton	17,894
Crystal Palace	17,120

come up with an answer. The recession affects almost everything and everybody, but other clubs do not have the same degree of fall-off.

"Our admission charges are similar to other large clubs and lower than some. Our hard core of support appears to be only around 18,000."

Atkinson yesterday stressed the need for greater support. "If we are to become a top club in England and Europe, we need more fans through the turnstiles more often," he said. "Obviously they turn up hoping to be entertained, and for the most part this season, I think they have been. But they have got to realise we are not going to roll sides over every week."

Although Villa could go back to the top of the table tonight, the attendance will be only around 20,000, if the established pattern continues. The gate for the last league match, a 5-1 victory over

Middlesbrough was less than 20,000. This was covered live by BSkyB, a factor which has not affected attendance figures for so-called more attractive opposition such as Arsenal and Blackburn Rovers. Sunday games in the past against the glamour clubs have also been well-supported.

Villa's present average attendance of 26,980 trails behind Liverpool, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Leeds in the Premier League plus Newcastle United in the first division.

This is largely because of the poor attendances against Middlesbrough, Queens Park Rangers, Chelsea, Southampton and Crystal Palace. Taking Glasgow attendances into account, too, Birmingham is demonstrably well down the league table of footballing cities.

Among the many factors which puzzle Villa's officials is that Nottingham Forest, lying bottom of the league, recently attracted 23,249 for the visit of Chelsea, compared with 19,125 for the same fixture at Villa Park in September.

While this unstable situation persists, the long-held theory that an Aston Villa team challenging for honours playing entertaining, attacking football, and scoring lots of goals, would pack Villa Park, is being disproved.

Mass unemployment, which has severely hit the West Midlands, is an important factor, though even this does not hold up when making comparisons with Merseyside and Tyndeside, areas also badly hit by the recession. Newcastle, rejuvenated by their manager and former player, Kevin Keegan, and a division below Villa, attract a solid home attendance of around 29,000 for every home game, whoever the visitors.

Atkinson believes this season's eventual champions could take the title losing more games than any of the other winners over the last five years. "People say we have some easier games coming up in the next month or so but there's simply no such thing as an easy match in the Premier League," he said.



Aiming high: Evans will be the first woman to play in the Oxford men's basketball team against Cambridge

Evans is cleared to reach a goal

By JOHN GOODBODY

JODI Evans, who was barred from representing Oxford men's basketball team in a tournament organised by the British Universities Sports Federation (BUSF), will be able to compete against Cambridge on February 14.

The Light Blues have agreed that Evans, a Rhodes scholar who was a member of the Canada Olympic squad, can become the first woman to appear in the annual men's match, which is part of the Varsity Games, held in Cambridge and sponsored by Andersen Consulting.

"I am just pleased to be playing. After all the commotion about my being unable to take part in the BUSF tournament, I would have been surprised whichever way it had gone," she said yesterday. Evans, 24, who is reading management studies at Magdalen College, has been practising regularly with the men's team and has represented the second team in friendly games ever since she went up to Oxford in October.

"There is no resentment at my playing in the first team against Cambridge," she said. "In fact, everyone has been very supportive."

A 5ft 10in point guard, Evans said that she did not realise before she arrived at Oxford of the importance attached to the match against Cambridge.

Chris Brown, the Oxford captain, said: "I spoke to the Cambridge captain, Peter Cope, and he said there was no problem about Jodi. It is a very good team at the moment — we have won all our three BUSF tournament games — but will be even better with Jodi."

"It is just a shame that we could not have her with us all the time."

Last October, Oxford asked the BUSF if she could take part in the inter-university tournament. However, the BUSF decided to continue with its policy of not permitting women to participate in men's competitions when there are tournaments in the same sport for women. Otherwise, it argued women's competitions would become devalued.

Sue Brown blazed a trail for women at university when she coxed the Oxford Boat Race crew in 1981.

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

If Nigel pulls through in his current match against Timman he will do battle with Gary Kasparov for the world title. However, their previous encounters have been heavily in Kasparov's favour and today's position is an example. Short — Kasparov, Belgrade 1989. Can you work out black's winning plan in the endgame?

Solution on page 36

WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

LEBES
a. A disease of the liver
b. A wine bowl
c. A Jewish mourning cloak

BLANDANDER
a. To cajole
b. A homosexual
c. An Alpine rock plant

RASS
a. The bottom
b. Marijuana
c. To gossip

TULP
a. A swaggering show-off
b. A poisonous flower
c. To grade by statistics only

Answers on page 36

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3006

- ACROSS
- Knock hard (4)
 - Golden Temple city (8)
 - Three-movement piece (6)
 - Dam (6)
 - Old plane (4)
 - Cutting (8)
 - Corporal senior (8)
 - Plunge (4)
 - Snow piles (6)
 - Choke (6)
 - Vegetable strainer (8)
 - Mission (4)
- DOWN
- Medicinal tea plant (8)
 - Expression (6)
 - Kuala Lumpur state (8)
 - Harsh (4)
 - Thread link (6)
 - Speed (4)
 - Virtuosity (8)
 - Fiction author (8)
 - Crude laugh (6)
 - Delicate (6)
 - Cover (4)
 - Team (4)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 3005

ACROSS: 1. Kebab 4. Battled 8. Testimony 9. Cug 10. Hunt 11. Green belt 12. Buzan 13. Essex 16. Yorkshire 18. Anti 20. Odd 21. Gentleman 22. Thrills 23. Girth

DOWN: 1. Ketch 2. Bushman 3. Bridge of Sighs 4. Unker 5. Flying the flag 6. Lycor 7. Dug star 12. Boycott 14. Grammar 15. Friends 17. Rider 19. Tenth

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MCC debate produces high poll

MCC, the most famous cricket club in the world, will pass judgement this evening on the competence of England's selectors, who have not been accountable to it for a quarter of a century. It is as if the game had been held in a time warp.

Given the intellect of the speakers and the emotions aroused, there should be no more enthralling entertainment in the West End.

Quite what else will be achieved is not clear. A small, if prominent, group of members has forced MCC into spending around £20,000 to stage this special general meeting. Their motion is of no confidence in the selectors.

Their grouse is the exclusion of David Gower, Jack Russell and Ian Salisbury from England's tour of India and that those who selected the party should be accountable to somebody, somewhere, if not necessarily MCC.

These MCC members are no ordinary group of non-conformists. Their spokes-



Ivo Tennant looks ahead to the meeting at which MCC members will judge the Test selectors

man, Dennis Oliver, is as inoffensive an individual as it would be possible to meet. Their press officer, as it were, is Donald Treford, the editor of *The Observer*. Their speakers will include Lords Bonham Carter and Gilmour, who famously described the criteria for selection by England as "150 press-ups before breakfast, going for a three-mile run and preferably being unshaven."

Opposing the motion will be yet more eminent members: Field Marshal Lord Bramall and Lord Griffiths, one of the leading law lords in the country. It is as well that the House is just across the way from Westminster Central Hall.

Of the club's 17,400 members, 7,500 have voted al-

ready, a high number if past issues are anything to go on. Oliver expects to win the debate; he is not so certain, though, about winning the day. Oliver, Gilmour and their fellow signatories are acutely aware that MCC does not have — and should not have — control over England's selectors. The Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) — which does — resides in the cuckoo's nest at Lord's. The argument is that the selectors are accountable to nobody save themselves and have, as a result, developed into a myopic clique.

The signatories' sympathy for Gower is based on his Test record, the way he departs himself on the field and that when Gooch, Gatting and

Emburey went to South Africa, on unauthorised tours, he did not. They have a point, of course, although they are straying onto dangerous ground with dark mutterings of class bias against Gower. Gooch is too decent a person to resent someone on account of a more educated background. Inhibited in the past, maybe, but not now. As for Stewart, the erstwhile England manager, he will tell you — forcibly — that he is closer in background to Gower than he is to the England captain.

It can be argued that all this expense would have been saved had the selectors declared what the real reason was for omitting Gower. Instead of coming up with the famous reason of his age (a mere 35) they might as well have said they perceived him as a bad influence on others. After all, they could scarcely have received more criticism.

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Joy for W Indies, page 38

McGeechan to bow out with Lions tour

By ALAN LORIMER



McGeechan: meticulous

IAN McGeechan, the Scotland coach, is to retire at the end of the five nations' championship, leaving the British Isles tour of New Zealand as his final assignment. The Calcutta Cup match at Twickenham on March 6 will be his final international, marking the end of a long, illustrious association with Scottish rugby, both as player and coach.

McGeechan, who works for Scottish Life, said: "I am keen to develop my business career as well as spending more time with my family. I've put a

considerable amount of time and effort into coaching rugby at an international level; I now need a break."

McGeechan has been the senior Scotland coach for five years, and guided Scotland to a grand slam in 1990 and the semi-finals of the World Cup in 1991. He was capped 32 times as a stand-off half and centre, captained his country nine times, and toured South Africa, in 1974, and New Zealand, in 1977, with the British Lions, playing in eight internationals.

Acknowledging Scotland's debt to McGeechan, Duncan Paterson, the team manager,

said: "He is quite simply the best and most meticulous coach in the world." Bill Hogg, the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) chief executive, paid tribute to McGeechan's service. "He has given a tremendous amount of himself to Scottish, British and world rugby," he said.

McGeechan's successor will be appointed after the SRU annual meeting in June, and is likely to be drawn from a short list including Douglas Morgan, the Scotland assistant coach, and David Johnston, the senior coach for the summer tour of Fiji, Tonga and Western Samoa.

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